

On Top Of The News Email:news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel:+297 582-7800 Thursday, March 21, 2013



House Budget Committee Chairman Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis. is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington.

(AP Photo/J. Applewhite)

U.S. AVERTS SHUTDOWN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved a huge spending bill to keep the government open through the end of September, preventing a shutdown next week but locking in \$85 billion in budget cuts that will mean job furloughs for hundreds of thousands of federal workers.

The bipartisan 73-26 vote in the Democratic-controlled Senate sends the measure to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which is expected to approve it on Thursday and ship it to President Barack Obama for his signature.

The vote represented a rare thawing of the partisan gridlock gripping Washington and cleans up the unfinished business of Congress for the long-underway 2013 budget year. Although the bill ensures there will be no interruption of routine government funding, more battles over future spending loom ahead.

The legislation provides \$982 billion for federal agencies to remain in operation through the Sept. 30 end of the budget year. It provides \$87 billion funding for overseas military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and maintains a pay freeze for federal workers.

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The Big Thaw



President Barack Obama laughs during a joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Wednesday, March 20, 2013, at the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

Obama reaffirms 'unbreakable bonds' between US, Israel

JULIE PACE

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Eager to reassure an anxious ally, President Barack Obama on Wednesday affirmed Israel's sovereign right to de-

fend itself from any threat and vowed to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

He said containment of a nuclear-armed Iran was not an option and said the United States would do

whatever it takes to prevent Iran from getting "the world's worst weapons."

Meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on his first visit to the Jewish state as president, Obama offered his per-

sonal commitment that the U.S. would stand by Israel in any circumstances that required it to act to protect its people.

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Obama reaffirms 'unbreakable bonds' between US, Israel

Continued from front

He said the U.S. and Israel would start talks soon on a new, 10-year security co-operation package to replace one that expires in 2017.

Obama also pledged to investigate whether chemical weapons were used this week in neighboring Syria's 2-year-old civil war, something he said would be a "game-changer" for current U.S. policy. In addition, he said he would continue to urge Israel and the Palestinians to relaunch the moribund peace process.

Speaking at a joint news conference, Obama and Netanyahu, who have sparred on numerous occasions in the past, presented a united front on Iran. They stressed repeatedly that all options — including military ones — are on the table to keep Iran from acquiring an atomic weapon if the diplomatic track fails. And they brushed aside apparent differences over when the Iranian nuclear program might reach the point that military action is required.

"We will do what is necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining the world's worst weapons," Obama said, calling a nuclear-armed Iran a threat to Israel, the greater Middle East and the world.

Although Obama did not promise that the United States would act militarily

ily against Iran if Israel decided that must be done, he offered an explicit endorsement for Israel to take whatever unilateral measures it deems necessary to guard against the threat. "Each country has to make its own decisions when it comes to the awesome decision to engage in any kind of military action and Israel is differently situated than the United States," he said. "I would not expect that the prime minis-

about what was important for our national security." Netanyahu seized on the remarks, saying they were an important demonstration of America's steadfast alliance with Israel and part of making the carrot-and-stick approach a credible option to avoid the use of force. "I am absolutely convinced that the president is determined to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons," he said. "I ap-

peal to you to do whatever is necessary to prevent that threat." Netanyahu said the carrot-and-stick approach now being employed to cajole Iran into proving that its nuclear intentions are peaceful had to be bolstered by "a clear and credible threat of military action." Obama's recognition of Israel's right to act alone appeared to satisfy him on that score, and the prime minister beamed with delight in response to the new security pact talks.



President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu talk during their joint news conference in Jerusalem, Israel, Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Pablo Monsivais)

ter would make a decision about his country's security and defer that to any other country any more than the United States would defer our decisions

preciate that. I appreciate the fact that the president has reaffirmed, more than any other president, Israel's right and duty to defend itself by itself against any

On another issue of critical importance to Israel's security, Obama said the U.S. is investigating whether chemical weapons were deployed in Syria earlier

this week. He said he was "deeply skeptical" of contentions by Syrian President Bashar Assad's government that rebel forces were behind any such attack.

Both the Assad government and Syrian rebels have accused each other of using chemical weapons in an attack on Tuesday. Obama said the U.S. policy not to intervene militarily or arm Syrian rebels thus far is based on his desire to solve the problem with world partners. He rejected as "inaccurate" suggestions that the United States had done nothing to stop two years of bloodshed that has claimed more than 70,000 lives.

"It's a world problem when tens of thousands of people are being slaughtered, including innocent women and children," Obama said. Obama's three-day visit to Israel, from its start earlier Wednesday, is designed to send a message of reassurance to a key ally. At an extravagant welcoming ceremony, Obama declared that "peace must come to the Holy Land" and not at Israel's expense. U.S. backing for Israel will be a constant as the Middle East roils with revolution and Iran continues work on its nuclear program, he said.

"The United States is proud to stand with you as your strongest ally and your greatest friend," Obama said after landing at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport.

"Across this region the winds of change bring both promise and peril," he said, calling his visit "an opportunity to reaffirm the unbreakable bonds between our nations, to restate America's unwavering commitment to Israel's security, and to speak directly to the people of Israel and to your neighbors." Seeking to alter a perception among many Israelis that his government has been less supportive of Israel than previous U.S. administrations, Obama declared the U.S.-Israeli alliance "eternal." □

US envoy presses China over hacking, North Korea

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew pressed Chinese leaders over computer hacking and for help with North Korea during two days of talks that ended Wednesday. Lew's visit to Beijing was the first high-level contact between the two governments in six months as they re-engage following a hiatus during the Chinese leadership transition.

The White House has called for Beijing to take action to stop computer attacks aimed at stealing company secrets. Hundreds of

cyberattacks have been traced to China, and a security firm said last month that it found a wave of attacks on 140 companies that originated in a building in Shanghai housing a military unit. "This is a very serious threat to our economic interests. There was no mistaking how seriously we take this issue," Lew told reporters. Chinese officials have denied their government is involved and say China also is a victim of cyberattacks.

In talks with Chinese leaders, Lew emphasized that Washington sees a dis-

tinction between criminal cyberattacks, which are a common threat, and spying by state-sponsored enterprises, said a senior American official who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to brief reporters. The official declined to say how Chinese officials responded. On North Korea, Washington wants Beijing to use its status as the North's main source of trade and aid to press Pyongyang to discard its nuclear program. "We made clear that the U.S. views the provocative actions of North Korea as

very serious and we will continue to pursue methods available to change the policy perspective in Pyongyang," Lew said. "We share a common objective of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula and we will continue to discuss it." Asked whether Washington was considering sanctions that might affect Chinese banks, a senior administration official said the U.S. is exploring its options to influence North Korea's behavior but said U.S. leaders would rather not impose burdens on the Chinese economy. □

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US Senate votes \$85 billion in cuts, averting shutdown

Continued from front

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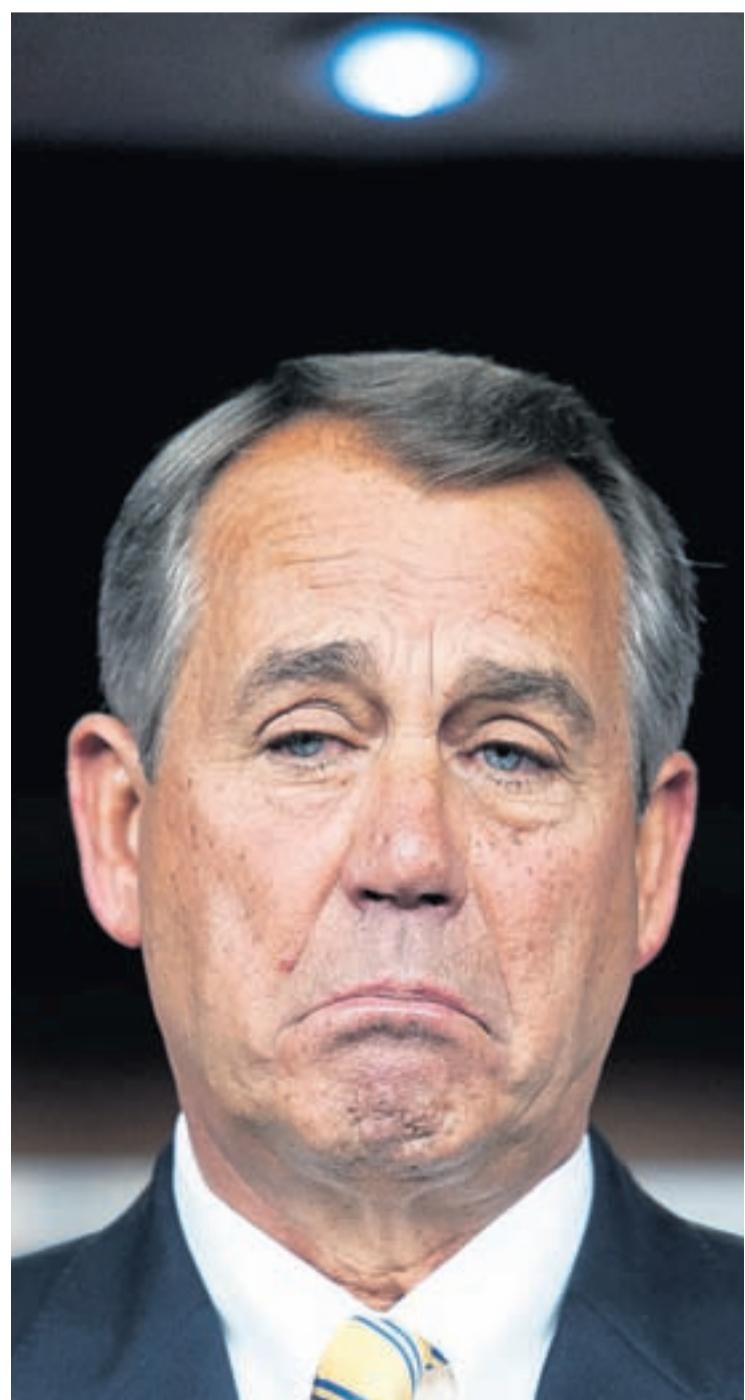
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alliance with Israel and part of making the carrot-and-stick approach a credible option to avoid the use of force.

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House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio, speaks with reporters about the federal budget on Capitol Hill in Washington.
(AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

Colorado: Governor signs landmark gun bills

DENVER (AP) — Exactly eight months after dozens of people were shot in a Colorado movie theater, the state's Democratic governor on Wednesday signed new restrictions on firearms in the state. It is a big change for Democrats who have traditionally shied away from taking on gun control in a western state where owning a gun is as common as owning a car in some rural areas. Gov. John Hickenlooper signed new limits on am-

sacre at a Connecticut school left 28 dead and revived gun control as a top issue. President Barack Obama proposed several gun safety measures a month later in response. Despite the president's backing, a push for a federal assault weapons ban has faltered in Washington, where the National Rifle Association gun lobby has powerful allies, especially in the Republican party. Senate Democrats decided that the ban won't

nition and the sale of guns. California lawmakers have vowed to pass a package of gun control measures that is even tougher than New York's. And in Connecticut, a law that would require universal background checks is moving through the state legislature. In Colorado, gun violence was again in the news Wednesday, as police searched for a gunman who shot and killed the state's prisons director when he answered the



Sponsors and family members of victims watch as Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper signs control bills into law at the Capitol in Denver on Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

munition magazines and a landmark expansion of background checks on Wednesday in his office, surrounded by legislative sponsors and their guests. The signings mark a significant moment in Colorado, a state with a libertarian tradition of self-reliance.

Over the last month, Colorado has been viewed as a test for how far states are willing to go on new restrictions after the horror of shootings at a Connecticut elementary school and in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. There, on July 20, a gunman dressed in body armor and carrying an arsenal of firearms killed 12 people and wounded dozens of others during a midnight showing of a "Dark Knight" Batman film.

Then in December, a mas-

be part of the gun control bill because it didn't have enough support to pass.

Many Democrats think a national ban on large-capacity magazines has a better chance of getting more support. Other measures under consideration in the Senate would expand required federal background checks for firearms buyers, increase federal penalties for illegal gun trafficking and increase money for school safety. The states, meanwhile, are free to impose their own restrictions that can be stricter than anything Congress might pass. Even before Obama presented his proposals, New York quickly passed the nation's toughest gun laws, strengthening its assault weapons ban and adding new restrictions on ammu-

front door of his home. Colorado Department of Corrections chief Tom Clements was appointed by Gov. Hickenlooper in 2011. Hickenlooper, a gun rights advocate, and other state Democrats were convinced by the recent string of mass shootings to take on gun control.

"I am happy the governor is signing common-sense legislation that reduces gun violence in our communities by keeping guns out of the hands of criminals, domestic violence offenders and the seriously mentally ill," said Democratic Rep. Rhonda Fields, who represents the district where the theater shooting happened.

Colorado Democrats have succeeded where other lawmakers outside of New York have not. □

Q&A ON THE NEWS

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Q: When cardinals from all over the world converge in Rome, what language do they speak? I've read they are fluent in Latin, but are all also fluent in Italian?

-- **Richelle Weinstock, Decatur, Ga.**

A: All official conclave business, such as the taking of oaths, voting, or the questioning and response of the new pope, is done in Latin, Christopher Ruddy, an associate professor of historical and systematic theology at the Catholic University of America, told Q-and-A on the News in an email.

"When the cardinals are in the Sistine Chapel itself, they rarely speak at all, except when they pronounce an oath as they vote and when they are praying (in Latin)," he wrote. "There is no chit-chat or politicking in the Sistine Chapel and several cardinals have remarked how intensely quiet and prayerful the voting process is."

Italian generally is the working language of the Vatican, but it also provides translators for several languages, including English, Spanish, French and German, for meetings. The cardinals can use their preferred language when giving speeches.

"When cardinals talk among themselves informally, they use whatever language(s) they are most comfortable with, just like anybody else in the world," Ruddy wrote. A cardinal who can speak multiple languages "will often have an advantage in communicating with other cardinals. And, for someone who is considered to be a potential papal candidate, evidence of fluency in several languages (Italian, English and Spanish, especially), is highly desirable, given the worldwide reach of the Catholic Church," according to Ruddy.

Q: There were two adult survivors of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December, but there has been no news about their injuries. How they are doing now?

-- **Lynne Becker, Roswell, Ga.**

A: Natalie Hammond, who was the lead teacher at Sandy Hook, is recovering from gunshot wounds to her arm and leg during the massacre that killed 20 children and six adults on Dec. 14. Hammond, principal Dawn Hochsprung and school psychologist Mary Sherlach left a staff meeting and were shot by Adam Lanza. Hochsprung and Sherlach were killed, and Hammond was able to crawl behind a door. She was invited to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address and dropped the first puck at a Boston Bruins' NHL game on March 3. Police never released the name of the other wounded adult, but USA Today reported it was a substitute kindergarten teacher. The Hartford (Conn.) Courant reported that teacher was hit in the foot by a bullet that had ricocheted.

Q: I have not seen a follow-up on the girl's body found in the water tank on top of a L.A. hotel. How did she die, and do they have any idea how she ended up in the tank?

-- **Frank Cook, Doraville, Ga.**

A: The autopsy report on Elisa Lam was inconclusive, and authorities are waiting for toxicology reports, which could take several weeks. Lam was discovered Feb. 19 in a cistern on top of the Cecil Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. It's not known how long she was in the water and whether she was pushed or fell into the tank.

Lam was from Vancouver, British Columbia, and checked into the hotel on Jan. 26 on her way to Santa Cruz, Calif. She was recorded on a hotel security camera five days later, but that was the last time she was seen there. □

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Indiana bus slaying suspect dead: child hostage safe

FORT WAYNE, Indiana (AP)

— A man pulled a woman off a city bus on Wednesday, fatally shot her and then took a 3-year-old boy hostage before a sniper killed him during a police standoff.

A police officer carried the child out of a house in Fort Wayne, Indiana, about 4:30 p.m. local time, and police announced soon after that the suspect, 45-year-old Kenneth Knight, was dead.

Police said from the outset that they did not believe the shooting was random, but the relationship, if any, between Knight, the woman and the child was not immediately clear.

Police spokeswoman Raquel Foster said a protective order had been

filed against Knight in the past few days, but she did not say who had requested the order.

Police said Knight and the woman, 49-year-old Jacqueline Bouvier Hardy, had both been riding a city bus when Knight pulled her off and shot her about 25 feet (8 meters) away in front of several people. The shooting took place about 8 a.m. along a busy street. Children waiting at school bus stops were among the witnesses, a school official said.

A backpack lay at the feet of the victim, whose body was covered by a sheet. Knight fled after the shooting into the surrounding neighborhood. Several hours later, police said a standoff had ensued and

the child was being held hostage. A few hours later,

Police Chief Rusty York told reporters Knight was dead,

killed by a single shot from a sniper. □



Armed officers surround the house Wednesday, March 20, 2013 in Fort Wayne, Ind., where the man suspected of killing a bus passenger and taking a child hostage earlier in the day was killed by a police sniper during the ensuing standoff.

(AP Photo/Swink Patel)

Claims dismissed against BP contractors in Gulf spill trial

M. KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A federal judge conducting a trial to assign fault for the worst U.S. offshore oil spill dismissed claims Wednesday against a BP contractor and the company that made a key safety device on the drilling rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, triggering the disaster. After plaintiffs' attorneys rested their case Wednesday, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier ruled there was no evidence that BP's drilling fluids contractor M-I LLC made any decision that led to the blowout of BP's Macondo well. Barbier dismissed all claims against M-I on the 15th day of the trial. The judge also agreed to rule out punitive damages against Cameron International, the manufacturer of the blowout preventer on the ill-fated Deepwater

Horizon rig, which was rocked by an explosion and fire in 2010 that killed 11 workers and touched off the enormous spill.

"I have not heard or seen evidence that would in any way support a finding of gross negligence or willful misconduct on the part of Cameron," Barbier said. The judge was acting on requests by M-I and Cameron to have claims against them dismissed. The two Houston-based companies have been bit players at the trial, which has centered on the actions and decisions of employees of energy giant BP, rig owner Transocean Ltd. and cement contractor Halliburton. M-I is a wholly owned subsidiary of oil field services firm Schlumberger. Two M-I employees, Gordon Jones and Blair Manuel, were among the 11 workers killed in the blast. □

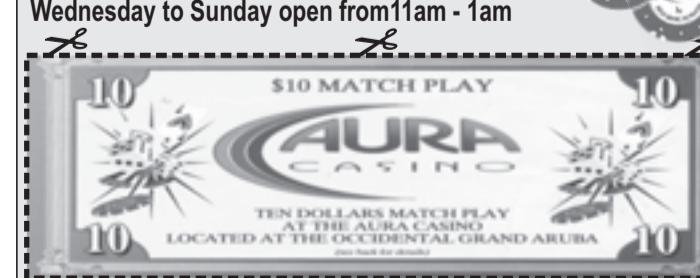
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Fed stands by stimulus, sees stronger US economy

M. CRUTSINGER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Federal Reserve said Wednesday that the U.S. economy has strengthened after pausing late last year but still needs the Fed's extraordinary support to help lower high unemployment.

In a statement after a two-day meeting, the Fed stood by its plan to keep short-term rates at record lows at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent, as long as the inflation outlook remains mild. And it says it will continue buying \$85 billion a month in bonds indefinitely to keep long-term borrowing costs down.

The unemployment rate fell to a four-year low of 7.7 percent in February, among many signs of a healthier economy.

The Fed notes in its statement that the job market has improved, consumer spending and business investment have increased and the housing market has strengthened.

Still, its latest economic forecast, also released

Wednesday, maintains that unemployment won't reach 6.5 percent until 2015.

The Fed also cautioned that government spending cuts and tax increases could slow the economy. It projects growth won't exceed 2.8 percent this year, slightly lower than its December forecast of 3 percent.

A total of 13 Fed officials still believe the first rate hike will not occur until 2015, the same number as in December.

One Fed official projects the first boost in the short-term lending rate will not occur until 2016.

The statement was approved on an 11-1 vote. Esther George, president of the Kansas City regional Fed bank, dissented for a second straight meeting. She reiterated her concerns that the Fed's aggressive stimulus could heighten the risk of inflation and financial instability. The economy slowed to an annual growth rate of just 0.1 percent in the October-December quarter, a near-stall that was due mainly

to temporary factors that have largely faded.

Economists think growth has rebounded in the January-March quarter to

gained solidly in February. And employers have gone on a four-month hiring spree, adding an average of 205,000 jobs a month. In

nomic prospects looked promising as the year began. Yet in each case, the economy stumbled.

In 2010, U.S. growth was



A television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the news conference of Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

an annual rate around 2 percent or more. The most recent data support that view.

Americans spent more at retailers in February despite higher Social Security taxes that shrank most workers' paychecks. Manufacturing

February, the unemployment rate, though still high, reached its lowest point since December 2008.

One reason for the Fed's reluctance to reduce its stimulus is the history of the past three years.

In each of the three, eco-

hurt by turmoil from Europe's debt crisis. In 2011, a spike in gas prices and supply disruptions caused by Japan's earthquake and tsunami dampened growth. And in 2012, higher gas prices cut into consumer spending. □

Freddie accuses big banks of rigging lending rate

MARCY GORDON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Freddie Mac has sued 15 big international banks, including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Citigroup, accusing them of rigging a key interest rate and causing huge losses for the government-controlled mortgage giant.

Freddie filed the lawsuit Thursday in federal court in Alexandria, Virginia. It names the banks that set the London interbank offered rate, known as LIBOR, which provides the basis for trillions of dollars in contracts around the world, including mortgages, bonds and consumer loans.

In a growing scandal, two big British banks and Switzerland's largest have been fined hundreds of millions of dollars for manipulating LIBOR by U.S.

and British regulators.

A U.S. watchdog has found that Freddie and its larger sibling Fannie Mae together may have lost more than \$3 billion on their investments from banks' rate-rigging.

The banks schemed together daily to manipulate and hold down the value of LIBOR from August 2007 through at least May 2010, Freddie alleges in its suit. They "acted collectively to suppress ... LIBOR, both to hide their institutions' financial problems and to boost their profits," the suit says.

The staff of the inspector general for the Federal Housing Finance Agency, which oversees Freddie and Fannie, gave the estimate of the losses late last year. The staff's memo said that Freddie and Fannie sustained the losses on \$1 trillion in mortgage securi-



A for sale sign hangs outside a home in Glenview, Ill.

(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

ties and other investments linked to the LIBOR.

Taxpayers so far have paid about \$170 billion to rescue Freddie and Fannie, which

suffered huge losses from risky mortgages and were bailed out by the government in September 2008 at the onset of the financial

crisis. The two companies together own or guarantee about half of all U.S. mortgages, or nearly 31 million home loans.

Fannie Mae spokesman Andrew Wilson said Wednesday the company is weighing a possible suit of its own.

Spokesmen for JPMorgan Chase & Co., Bank of America Corp. and Citigroup Inc. declined to comment on Freddie's suit. The legal action by Freddie adds to a flurry of lawsuits filed by cities and municipal agencies in the U.S. against some of the banks that set the LIBOR. The cities and agencies are seeking damages for losses they say they suffered as a result of an artificially low rate, because they hold bonds and other investments whose value is pegged to LIBOR. □

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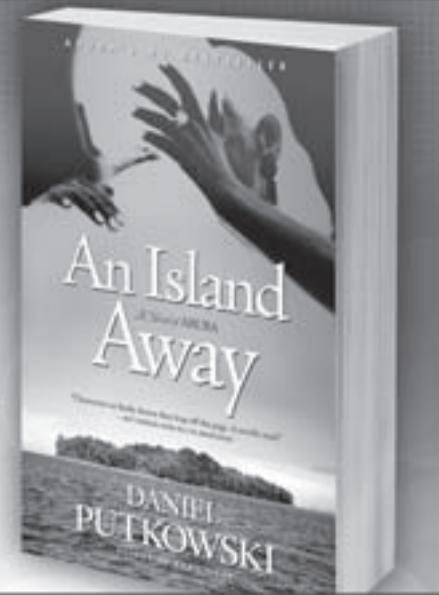
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In Red Hook, Brooklyn, businesses begin to bloom again

CARA BUCKLEY

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NEW YORK — Crocuses are peeping out of tree pits in Red Hook, Brooklyn, once drowned by a briny soup of seawater and diesel fuel. At the newly reopened Fairway supermarket, bright piles of lemons, tomatoes and oranges pop almost luridly.

Kevin's, a beloved seafood restaurant, has a shiny new wood floor and a new bar built out of donated marble, and across the way in the back of the Red Hook Lobster Pound, gutted by Hurricane Sandy and since rebuilt, sits a shiny new deep fryer, a veritable symbol of marital compromise and rebirth. "There it is," trumpeted Susan Povich, an owner of the lobster pound, as she gazed with satisfaction at the fryer late last week. "This was \$10,000 and 10,000 hours of heated discussions between me and my husband."

"I don't win, don't you understand that?" said her husband, Ralph Gorham, a man curiously unmoved by french fries. "Happy wife, happy life."

In the more than four months since the storm submerged much of this coastal neighborhood under surging water and waves of despair, residents and business owners have trekked an often-tortuous path of recovery, seeded with second-guessing, wild hope and fear. The obstacles seemed insurmountable, the thicket of insurance claims and loan and grant applications too

deep. The stress caused Gorham, already slim, to lose 12 pounds. But slowly, painstakingly, floorboard by floorboard and fryer by fryer, many of the repairs got done. Finally, earlier this month came the much-longed-for reopening of the Fairway market, a pivotal point not least because it brought people back.

"Almost immediately we got a return in our business numbers," said Triciann Botta, owner of the Botta di Vino wine shop. "Summer's coming, and spring is coming, and you can feel the ground shaking from the people coming back here."

A few blocks south at Fairway, parking spots were in short supply as scores of cars jostled for space.

Fairway's return has even helped business at the Stop 1 Supermarket, a deli a few blocks away, where Fairway employees are stopping by again for snacks and tobacco. "A lot of people don't like to eat where they work," said Abraham Barakat, who works at the deli.

The lobster pound reopened on the same day as Fairway, drawing its fair share of television crews and selling its first lobster roll to the mayor. Povich said she drew the deepest comfort from the return of loyal customers. "I honestly feel so humbled," she said. "I remembered, 'Oh yeah, this is why we do this.'"

Signs of work yet to do in the area abound. The shoreline by the Waterfront

Museum is still a mess of broken brick walls and twisted wrought-iron fences, and a shipping container remains tilted precariously like a carelessly tossed building block. The Red Hook Volunteers, currently working out of a former fitness studio on Van Brunt Street near Wol-

business. Most of her sales happen off-site — at flea markets and food festivals — and she yearns for a time when Red Hook operated less like a resort town, with peak sales limited to summer weekends. As for the possibility of another storm, Gorham is do-

In the meantime, the couple are finishing the last of the fixes to their shop and awaiting the final permits to operate the fryer. On a recent sunny morning, they sat together on a picnic bench in the shop's eating area and took in their handiwork: the new



Susan Povich, owner of the Red Hook Lobster Pound, with customers Frank Sescire, left, Artie Serrano, center, and Sean Hogan at the restaurant in New York, March 19, 2013. The restaurant recently reopened after being gutted by Hurricane Sandy.

(Uli Seit/The New York Times)

cott Street, said they were still involved with repairs on over 230 homes. Residents remain displaced, ruined walls need tearing down, and many homes are being invaded by mold. "People are still desperate," said Mike Elder, 30, who helps coordinate the volunteers. "It's a long phase of cleaning places out and drying them out and rebuilding, and people trying to find funding." Povich said if anything haunted her, it was the relative paucity of local residents and year-round

ing research on how businesses in hurricane-prone Florida fend off floodwaters. "Everybody in the community is still dealing with fallout from this," he said.

wainscoting, the photos of Maine and lobsters on the walls, the epoxy floor, done in a gray that Povich deemed "hideous" but that Gorham insisted was "fine." □

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Egypt: Judges recommend Brotherhood's dissolution

HAMZA HENDAWI

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — A panel of judges on Wednesday recommended the dissolution of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group from which President Mohammed Morsi hails, arguing it has no legal status.

The recommendation is not binding, but is significant given charges by the opposition that the Brotherhood's leadership is the real power behind Morsi. The president and Brotherhood have repeatedly denied the charge.

The recommendation was made to a high administrative court that is expected to rule later this month on the Brotherhood's legitimacy. The judges' panel, which was providing an advisory opinion to the court, said that the organization does not have a proper legal status.

The Brotherhood's legal status has for years been caught up in multiple court cases. Formed in 1928, it was dissolved in 1954 by military rulers. Despite the ban, it grew into Egypt's most organized and widespread political force, with authorities alternating between tolerance of its activities and fierce crackdowns on it.

The ban on it was lifted by the ruling military after the fall of autocrat Hosni Mubarak in February 2011.

It then formed a political party that went on to dominate parliamentary elections. Morsi, a Brotherhood veteran, was the party leader until he was elected president in June last year and he formally left the party.

In response to the judges'

so again when parliament adopts new legislation regulating the work of NGOs. All non-governmental organizations are required to register with the government.

"We never publicized that we registered the group because that does not

did not publicize previously that it has been registered when it is accused almost daily of being an illegal organization, and there was no independent confirmation that the Brotherhood was registered. Mubarak-era laws governing NGOs still in effect bar them from



An Egyptian activist holds a poster in Arabic that reads, "the Brotherhood are criminals," during an anti-Muslim Brotherhood protest in front of the Brotherhood's headquarters, in Cairo, Egypt. A panel of judges on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 has recommended the dissolution of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood, the Islamist group from which President Mohammed Morsi hails.

(AP Photo/Nasser Nasser)

recommendation, the Brotherhood's legal adviser said Wednesday that the group registered with authorities earlier this year and planned to do

add or take away anything," Abdel-Moneim Abdel-Maqsood, the legal adviser, told Al-Jazeera television.

It is unclear why the group

many political activities, including backing a political party through advocacy or funding, and include requirements for reporting the NGO's finances. □

Investigators raid home of IMF's Lagarde

PARIS (AP) — A lawyer for IMF chief Christine Lagarde says French investigators have searched her Paris home as part of an inquiry into her role in a \$400 million arbitration deal in favor of a tycoon.

The lawyer, Yves Repiquet (eev ruh-PEE-kay), says Lagarde has nothing to hide and welcomed Wednesday's search as another step in proving her innocence.

Lagarde was France's finance minister when magnate Bernard Tapie won a 2008 settlement with a state-owned bank over the mishandled sale of Adidas in the 1990s. Critics said the settlement was too generous. IMF spokesman Gerry Rice said the organization's executive board had discussed the issue prior to Lagarde's appointment in June 2011, "and expressed its confidence that Madame Lagarde would be able to effectively carry out her duties as managing director."

Rice declined further comment, saying it would be inappropriate to say more about a case currently before the French judiciary.

Critics in France have said the Adidas case shouldn't have gone to a private arbitration authority in the first place because it involved a state-owned bank, Credit Lyonnais, and that Lagarde should have questioned the independence of one of the arbitration panel's judges.

Questions about the settlement began before Lagarde was appointed head of the Washington-based International Monetary Fund after her predecessor, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, quit to face charges he tried to rape a New York hotel maid. The charges against Strauss-Kahn were dropped.

During Lagarde's four-year tenure as France's finance minister, she won praise for her role in international negotiations during the global financial crisis and Europe's debt troubles. □

Cypriot officials: Plan B drawn up for bailout

E. BECATOROS

M. HADJICOSTIS

Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Cyprus' government has drawn up a new plan to raise funds needed for the country to secure a crucial international bailout, three top government officials said Wednesday.

The new bill could be voted on as early as Thursday evening, one of the officials said.

Parliament had resoundingly rejected the previous plan, which involved seizing up to 10 percent of people's bank deposits. The rejection threw Cyprus'

entire bailout into question, raising the possibility that the country's banks could collapse, the government would be unable to pay its bills and Cyprus could be forced out of the euro.

The officials said the new "Plan B" includes some Russian assistance and a smaller bank deposit tax. Parliament is expected to vote on the new bill Thursday. The officials all spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan was not yet being made public. One official said Plan B was ready to be presented to party leaders at a meeting Thursday morning. The

plan includes "some form" of Russian help, the official said, but expectations shouldn't be high because Moscow had made clear it didn't want to damage relations with the European Union. Cyprus has turned to long-time ally Russia for help, with Finance Minister Michalis Sarris flying to Moscow on Tuesday for meetings and saying he would remain there as long as was required. Nearly a third of the total amount of deposits in Cyprus' banks is believed to be held by Russians. The idea that authorities could dip directly into people's bank accounts

had outraged Cypriots and Russians alike.

The European Union, and Germany in particular, have long argued that they should not have to ask their own taxpayers to contribute to bailing out a country when it was Russian oligarchs who would benefit. A second government official said Plan B still includes some tax on deposits, but at a percentage definitely lower than those originally proposed. The official said the EU had given Cyprus until Monday to come up with an alternative, so speed was of the essence. □



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US, Karzai deal leaves most US commandos in Wardak

KIMBERLY DOZIER
AP Intelligence Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)

— Afghanistan's president on Wednesday relented in his demand for all U.S. special operations forces to withdraw from a strategic province east of the capital, agreeing to a compromise calling for the pullout of one team implicated in abuse allegations that the Americans have rejected. The dispute underscores the fragile negotiations under way as Hamid Karzai seeks to redefine and expand control of his country and the United States and its allies prepare to end their combat missions by the end of 2014.

Wardak province is viewed as a gateway to Kabul and has been the focus of counterinsurgency efforts in recent years. But Karzai last month ordered all U.S. special operations forces out after local villagers accused Afghan troops working with the Americans there of torture, illegal detentions and other abuses.

The U.S.-led coalition denied the allegations. But NATO said Karzai and Gen. Joseph Dunford, the U.S. commander of all allied forces, had agreed Wednesday to remove a team of commandos and turn over security to government forces in Wardak's Nirkh district, the center of the allegations. British Army Lt. Gen. Nick Carter, deputy commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan, said it will be "business as usual" for U.S. special operations forces elsewhere in the restive province.

In an interview from Kabul with Pentagon reporters, Carter also described a somewhat vague timeline for the Nirkh transition, saying it will come "once

the plan has been put together and there is confidence on all sides that it is possible" for the Afghans to take over security there. Clarifying an earlier statement from NATO, Carter said the Afghan local police who work with U.S. spe-

ghan troops in place of the Americans — or they might be replaced by conventional Afghan forces, but that would be up to the Afghan security chiefs to determine. The deal took more than three weeks for U.S. and Afghan secu-

of the deadline for the U.S. pullout initially set by Karzai.

The compromise came after a string of anti-American rhetoric from the Afghan leader that appears aimed at gaining favor with the Afghan public as



Afghan defense ministry spokesman General Zahir Azimi gestures during a press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, March 20, 2013. The U.S. military and the Afghan government reached a deal Wednesday on the pullout of American special operations forces and their Afghan counterparts from a contentious eastern province.

(AP Photo/Ahmad Jamshid)

cial operation forces could stay on in some form, possibly paired with elite Af-

ghanistan officials to craft and was reached more than a week after the expiration

he nears the end of his second and final term. Karzai has long com-

Al-Qaida in Iraq claims wave of attacks

S. SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — An al-Qaida in Iraq front group claimed responsibility Wednesday for bloody attacks that killed 65 people across the country a day earlier,

underscoring the terror group's potency a decade after the U.S.-led invasion that ousted dictator Saddam Hussein.

In a statement posted on a militant website, the Islamic State of Iraq said it unleashed the car bombs and other explosions to avenge the executions and "massacres" of con-

victed Sunni inmates held in Iraqi prisons.

It made no mention of the start of the war, but the claim of responsibility came 10 years after the U.S.-led war began on March 20 with an airstrike on Dora Farms in southern Baghdad in a failed attempt to kill Saddam.

The dictator's eventual toppling quickly led to a breakdown of law and order, enabling the rise of al-Qaida and other Sunni insurgents as well as releasing sectarian, ethnic and class hatreds that had been suppressed by his iron-fisted rule.

Most of the nearly 20 attacks on Tuesday targeted Shiite areas in Baghdad. In addition to those killed, more than 200 were wounded, officials said, demonstrating in stark terms how dangerously divided Iraq remains more than a year after American troops withdrew.

The al-Qaida statement warned the Shiite-led government to stop executing Sunni prisoners or "expect more bad events ... and seas of blood."

"What has reached you on Tuesday was the first drop of rain, and a first phase ... that will be followed by

plained the U.S. special operations forces and their Afghan partners have operated outside his control, but he must tread a delicate balance between his calls for a faster withdrawal and the continued need for foreign protection. His demand that U.S. commandos withdraw from Wardak province, for example, raised fears that the move would leave the area and the neighboring capital of Kabul more vulnerable to al-Qaida and other insurgents who are active there. The agreement will speed up the handover of security in the troubled province, faster than U.S. officials and some members of Karzai's own government had recommended or planned.

Carter suggested that the shift in Nirkh will serve as a test for the broad NATO plans to gradually shift security control of the country to the Afghans and withdraw U.S. and NATO combat forces by the end of 2014. □

more revenge," it said. Violence has ebbed sharply since the peak of Sunni-Shiite fighting that pushed the country to the brink of civil war in 2006 and 2007. But insurgents are still able to stage high-profile attacks, and sectarian and ethnic rivalries remain threats to the country's long-term stability.

Iraqis showed little interest in marking the anniversary of the war that sparked years of bloodshed as Sunni and Shiite militants battled U.S. forces and each other, leaving nearly 4,500 U.S. soldiers and more than 100,000 Iraqis dead. □

"Unpredictable" Pope Francis unnerving security team

V. L. SIMPSON
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Forgive Pope Francis' security team for looking a bit nervous.

One pope was shot in St. Peter's Square while riding in an open vehicle. Another was tackled by a woman with mental problems in St. Peter's Basilica. So in the early days of Francis' pontificate, as the pope delights the flock by wading into crowds and pressing the flesh, it's only natural that chief Vatican cop Domenico Giani seems on edge.

Just consider some of Francis' acts of papal outreach, which have all made for a refreshing change from the reserved style of his predecessor Benedict XVI, but present a huge headache for a security detail attached to one of the planet's most high-profile people.

The day after his election, Francis eschewed the Vatican's armored limousine and traveled through the chaotic streets of Rome in an ordinary car to pick up his things at a downtown

hotel.

At his first Sunday Mass as pontiff, Francis caused a stir by mingling with bystanders at a Vatican gate, shaking hands and even allowing himself to be grabbed by the shoulder, all while people jostled to get closer.

Then on inauguration day, Francis stood for nearly 30 minutes Tuesday in an open vehicle that circled the vast square, kissing babies handed up to him and at one point jumping out to bless and kiss a disabled man in the crowd.

It's not for nothing that Francis has quickly been dubbed the "unpredictable" pope. And for a bodyguard, unpredictable means trouble.

Giani looked particularly worried by the crowd that gathered after the Sunday Mass. La Stampa newspaper quoted an aide at the scene as saying that things "better get back to normal or we're in trouble."

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said last week that the Vatican was well aware of Francis' informal and open

style and that "proper security measures" would be taken, even if that hasn't happened immediately.

"But you can be sure that the security issues are being examined."

Even Francis' habit of con-

as if one of the monsignors was begging Francis to hurry up, as he nervously looked at his watch — but



Pope Francis waves as he arrives in St. Peter's Square for his inauguration Mass at the Vatican. Pope Francis' 'papal outreaches' have left many in the Vatican's security forces feeling a little nervous for the pontiff's safety.

(AP Photo/Michael Sohn)

"There are a lot of nut cases out there," said another Vatican official, who requested anonymity as he is not authorized to discuss security.

stantly running late can't make his bodyguards happy, since they're used to carefully choreographed and timed events. After Mass on Sunday, it seemed

the pope kept diving into the crowd.

Francis' meet-and-greet manner is reminiscent of John Paul II's open style in his first years as pope. □

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UK delivers another austere budget

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Treasury chief unveiled another tough budget Wednesday despite weakness in the economy that raised fears of a third recession in a little more than four years.

Though he offered beer drinkers and car drivers a tax break — no doubt a popular move among some — and provided incentives for home-buyers and investments in infrastructure projects, George Osborne showed the Conservative-led government remains convinced that debt-reduction measures are the best way forward for Europe's third-largest economy.

"We are slowly but surely fixing our country's economic wrongs," he said. That's not a view shared by all. After three years

of austerity, the country is borrowing more than Osborne initially thought and growing far slower than anticipated.

Ed Miliband, leader of the Labour Party opposition, said the budget was "more of the same" from a government that has failed to revive the economy following its deepest recession since World War II and presided over the loss of the country's triple A credit rating from Moody's Investors Service.

"Today, the chancellor joined Twitter," Miliband said. "He could have got it all in 140 characters: Growth down. Borrowing up. Families hit. And millionaires laughing all the way to the bank. Hashtag: downgraded chancellor." While insisting that his approach was the only way to tackle the economy's problems head on, Os-

borne conceded that the forecasts from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility were more downbeat than the last set less than four months ago. The growth forecast for this year, for example, was halved to just 0.6 percent, providing Osborne with even less room to maneuver as a flat-lining economy keeps a lid on revenues and maintains the upward pressure on welfare spending. And though growth in 2014 is expected to triple to 1.8 percent, down from the previous 2 percent prediction, it's still below the country's long-run average and a fairly uncomfortable backdrop to the expected election the following year. The economy shrank by 0.3 percent in the last three months of 2012, and many analysts have predicted another contraction in the first quarter of 2013. □

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Venezuela halts communication with US diplomat

C. TOOTHAKER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela

(AP) — Venezuela's government has halted lines of communication established by a top U.S. diplomat to protest what it says has been U.S. interference in the country's internal affairs ahead of an election set next month to replace the late President Hugo Chavez.

Foreign Minister Elias Jaua said in a news conference Wednesday that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roberta Jacobson had violated Venezuela's sovereignty despite reaching out to the South American country's government before Chavez's March 5 death. He accused Jacobson of supporting opposition candidate Henrique Capriles, although he didn't provide any evidence.

"We want normal relations with the United States based on mutual respect," Jaua said. He said the government had formally "suspended any contact and any communication that had been established with the call of Mrs. Jacobson in the month of November." He emphasized, however, that diplomatic and consular relations would remain between the two countries.

The U.S. Embassy in Caracas had not responded to a request for comment by Wednesday afternoon.

Venezuela's government expelled two U.S. military attaches this month for allegedly talking to members of the country's armed forces. Washington re-

sponded by ejecting two Venezuelan diplomats, who were honored by Jaua Wednesday.

him. And even as Maduro has said U.S. officials are backing Capriles' candidacy,



Venezuela's Foreign Minister Elias Jaua speaks during a ceremony to honor two Venezuelan diplomats expelled from Washington after Venezuela kicked out two U.S. military attaches, for allegedly conspiring against its government, in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, March 20, 2013. Jaua said Venezuela has cut off all diplomatic contact with the United States, saying Washington is meddling in its domestic affairs. Behind is a painting of independence hero Simon Bolivar.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

The two countries haven't had ambassadors posted in each other's capitals since 2010. Ahead of an April 14 presidential vote, Venezuelan officials have escalated their rhetoric against the U.S., with acting leader and government candidate Nicolas Maduro even accusing the U.S. of infecting Chavez with the cancer that killed

he has accused two former U.S. assistant secretaries of state of plotting to kill Capriles in the hopes of fomenting a coup. The U.S. State Department has rejected that accusation while calling for free and fair elections. On Wednesday, Jaua accused the former U.S. diplomats of seeking Central American mercenaries to carry out

once it's no longer politically useful to whip up fear of imperialism for internal political purposes, what concretely will happen in the relationship?"

Chavez was fond of calling the United States "the empire" and famously referred to President George W. Bush as the "devil" at a U.N. General Assembly meeting. Such words endeared the leftist leader to his followers, already suspicious after U.S. officials recognized the replacement government that took control after Chavez was ousted briefly in a 2002 coup. □

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Jamaica frets over lack of returning islanders

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

MANDEVILLE, Jamaica

(AP) — In this affluent town in Jamaica's cool, mountainous interior, Jasmine Pottinger has realized the dream that kept her going while dealing with racism, culture shock and other challenges during almost four decades of working in drizzly London, a city where she never felt entirely accepted.

The 73-year-old retired nurse and her husband, Earl, have retired to the Jamaican parish of her birth. Their pensions and hard-earned savings from Britain afford them a handsomely decorated house with a big balcony and spacious patio looking out on a terraced garden buzzing with hummingbirds and exploding with red and orange flowers that bloom year round. "In London, we could never afford all this," she says as friends enjoy freshly baked banana bread and strong Jamaican coffee served by a domestic helper. "Jamaica is certainly not cheap, but it does offer us a quality of life we enjoy. Plus, we are Jamaican and this is our country. Although I lived in England for 36 years, coming home was always my intention."

For years, that was the goal of nearly all Jamaicans who left seeking work because of the poor wages and scarcity of opportunity at home. They returned at retirement to take advantage of the sunny Caribbean island's lower costs and comfortable climate — and at the same time they provide a significant source of foreign currency for the economy.

But to the dismay of the government, fewer and fewer Jamaicans are coming back from London, New York, Toronto and other cities that drew them away as young adults. Over the last 20 years, the annual number of "returning nationals" has dropped by more than half — down to slightly more than 1,000 in 2011, the most recent

year for which official figures are available. Caribbean islands have long suffered from a "brain drain" that has seen professionals and skilled workers head off to jobs in the U.S., Europe and Canada. Leaders of small islands like Grenada and St. Lucia have lately begun wooing nationals abroad and encouraging them to as-

Jamaican overseas communities in the U.S., Britain, Canada and elsewhere in the Caribbean to discuss trade and investment. The private sector also touts the need for more Jamaicans to move back. Developer Stafford Earle, who has just completed a subdivision selling primarily to Jamaicans with foreign pension checks, says

with secret gardens and ornate fountains.

On a recent morning, the Pottingers met with other former British residents who have formed an association for companionship and safety. They reminisced about the long-ago challenges that confronted them when they first went to the "Mother Country" of England some 50



Jasmine Pottinger, a 73-year-old retired nurse, tends to her terraced backyard garden at her home in Mandeville, central Jamaica.

(AP Photo/David McFadden)

sist with developing their struggling homelands, but much more populous Jamaica has the most focused effort to forge relationships with its overseas citizens.

About 3 million Jamaicans live abroad, more than the 2.7 million who are here. The \$2 billion they send home each year is a major source of investment and wealth for this poor island, accounting for more than 13 percent of its GDP. The Bank of Jamaica says retirees who move back home are a key factor, estimating that their pensions provide 15 percent of the inflow of foreign currency.

Government officials are working to entice more nationals to come home — or at least to invest in Jamaica. A four-day Jamaica Diaspora Conference in mid-June hopes to attract hundreds of representatives of

returnees are a boost for the local economy along the scenic coast of Westmoreland parish where he builds.

Migration back home is a sensitive subject for many overseas Jamaicans who are afraid to burn bridges by discussing why they are reluctant to move back.

Stephen Batchelor, an 89-year-old returnee to gang-steeped Spanish Town, said former neighbors in the British city of Birmingham told him they are afraid to come back. They believe they will be targeted by criminals in Jamaica, where nearly everyone lives behind iron burglar bars installed on windows and doors. Perhaps nowhere is there more at stake than in Mandeville, where the rolling hills are dotted with stately homes owned by returned Jamaicans, including mansions

years ago.

But when the conversation turned to their retirement in Jamaica, member David Fyffe's face turned sour. Having come back to his homeland, he still has to deal with alienation and hostility — this time from envious countrymen who look upon him as a moneyed foreigner ripe for exploitation.

"The homes of returning residents are robbed when they go to church, robbed when they go on vacation. There are strong attempts to cheat and defraud. Yes, there has been a decline in Jamaica and returning residents can be a target," said Fyffe, nearly 70, who worked on the British railways for years.

The group of senior citizens rattled off a litany of safety measures large and small: Always keep your car windows up in traffic. □

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Infant left in vehicle dies in Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Police in Puerto Rico say an infant has died after apparently being left in a car for several hours.

A statement from police in the coastal Puerto Rican town of Arecibo says the father left the 6-month-old boy outside a car dealership where he had a meeting.

The 31-year-old father returned to his car at lunchtime and realized the baby was still strapped into his car seat. It wasn't immediately clear how long the child had been left.

Paramedics were unable to revive the boy Wednesday and he was declared dead at a local hospital. Authorities were still trying to determine if the father would face charges.

Jamaican slum dwellers deliver petition to PM

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Residents of a Jamaican slum once controlled by the island's biggest underworld boss are demanding accountability and justice for a deadly 2010 raid aimed at catching him.

Roughly 80 demonstrators marched Wednesday from a central Kingston square to Portia Simpson Miller's offices.

Most were from Tivoli Gardens, a housing complex in West Kingston once run by drug kingpin Christopher "Dudus" Coke.

A handful were permitted inside the gates to deliver a petition calling for an international inquiry into the May 2010 operation in which at least 73 civilians died.

Basic details of the raid remain murky, though it was one of the bloodiest episodes in Jamaica's recent history and there have been numerous claims of unlawful killings. □

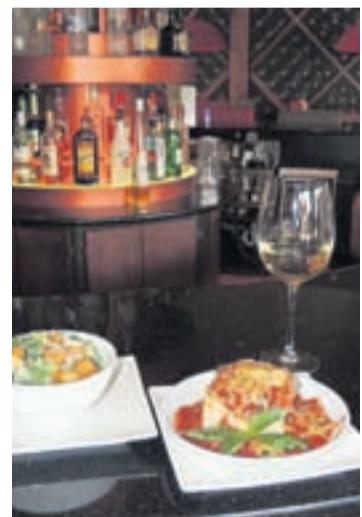
LOCAL Aruba TODAY

Fusion introduces a great selection of delicious entrees and tapas

ALHAMBRA CASINO & SHOPS - When friends linger over cocktails they invariably get hungry and you can bet that the subject of food will be brought up with a great degree of longing and anticipation.

just recently put together a delicious fast and satisfying menu of entrees, as well as a cold and hot assortment of tapas, which is available at the lounge at all hours of the night. French-born Executive

Veal Milanese, in addition to a classic US Rib Eye Steak, generous portions of Vegetarian Lasagna and hearty Spanish Paella, all cooked a la minute and served to club-goers with French fries, sauces and



Fusion, a stylish Jazz & Cigar lounge, among the island's bars, serving hand-crafted cocktails and fine wines by the glass at the Alhambra Casino & Shops,

chef Gerard Coste created the menu with late-night-owls in mind offering a piping hot Onion Soup, chilled Caesar Salad, crisp Fish and Chips, and a sa-

condiments - just hail any of the friendly waiters, and your pick of entrees will be delivered to your table in record time. Those who wish to snack



instead of feasting over plentiful platters, may order off the cold tapas menu which includes Salmon Bruschetta, Asian Style Shrimp Cocktail, Assorted Cheeses on an attractive platter, a Prosciutto Platter, a Charcuterie Tray load-

sweet endings with memorable desserts such as Chocolate Brownie with vanilla ice cream, Crème Brûlée, and Fusion Crepe, filled with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce, among them. The place has an excellent



ed with Italian cold cuts, creamy Mediterranean dips such as humus, tzatziki and olive tapenade, all served with just baked pita or warm mini baguettes. The Hot Tapas menu includes Vineyard snails, Mini Chorizos, Southwest Egg-rolls, Quesadillas, Garlic Shrimp with Tomato & Basil, Beef Churasco with Chimichurri Sauce, and assorted party platters with combination of all of the above. The lounge also serves

vibe and with the complete food menu, guests may linger longer, listening to live music, selecting a fresh cigar from the walk-in humidor, popping a bottle of champagne open or sipping fine wine. With an extensive selection of premium Vodkas, Scotches and Tequilas, Fusion is true to its name, delivering a union of fun elements, against a beautifully-appointed backdrop. □

Ben and Carla Welie honored at the Papaya Ranch Aruba!



PAPAYA - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba as Ambassadors of Goodwill at the Papaya Ranch. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for

20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Mr. Ben and Mrs. Carla van Welie, from IJselstein, Holland. Ben and Carla love the island very much because of the great and extremely friendly people of Aruba, like their good friends the family Boekhoudt, Feliciana and Croes, and other friends and neighbors from

their Aruba residence at Bringamosa. The Welie's also love the weather, the nature, beaches, restaurants, and Aruba is simply paradise for them. The certificate was presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with a huge group of friends and neighbors from Ben and Carla.□



The Maats and the Tashjians honored at Radisson Resort

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Daniela Perez

She is from Cuba. It is her first time in Aruba and she loves de Island.



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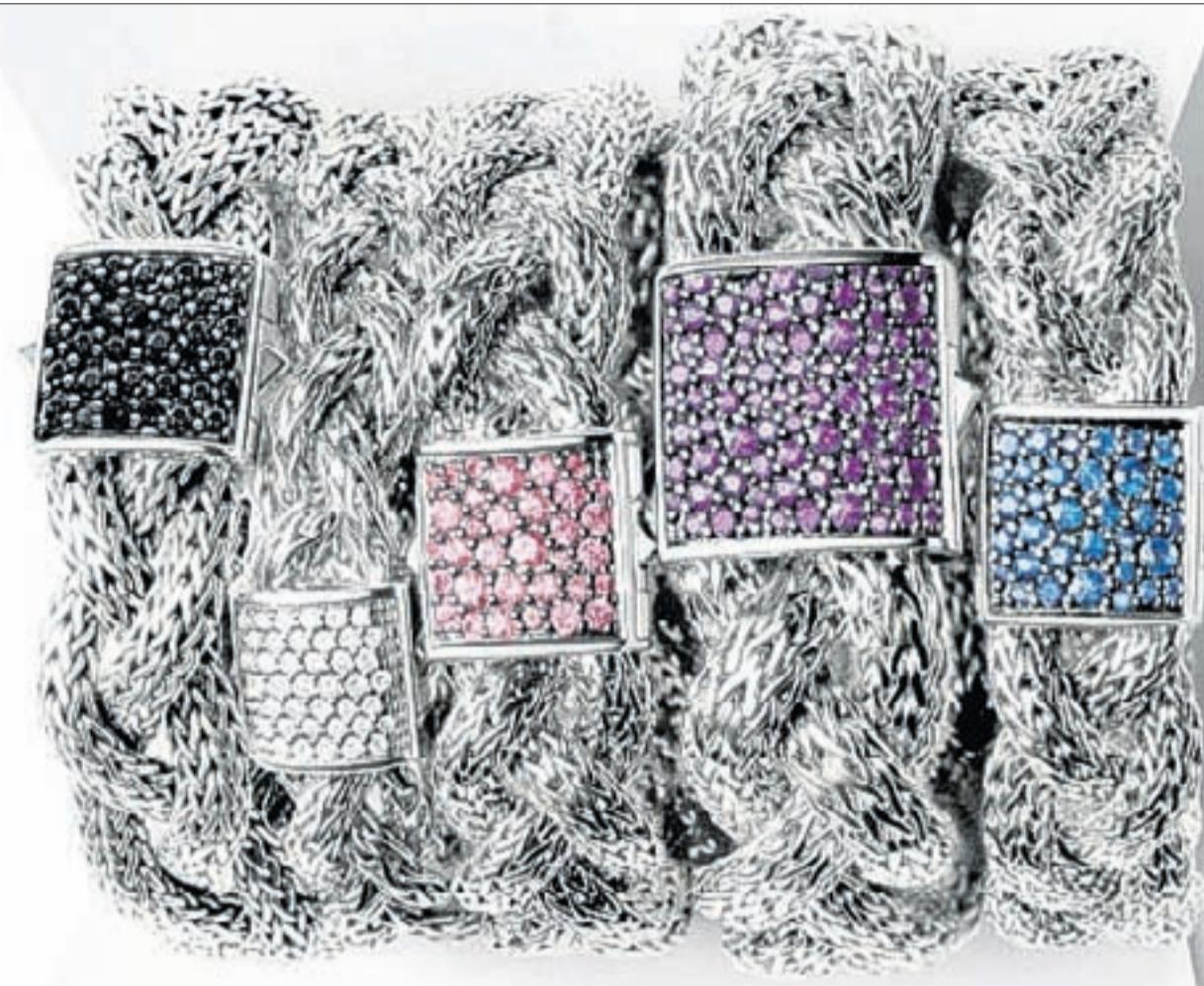
PALM BEACH - Recently at the Radisson, the Maat's and the Tashjian's were very pleased when presented with their "Goodwill Ambassador" certificates. They have been coming to Aruba for over 20 years. Aruba is their getaway twice a year and they love our island for many reasons, too many to mention. Also we should mention that Mr. Tashjian has even a tattoo saying Aruba on his biceps. That says enough!! The ceremony was conducted by Jonathan Boekhoudt, Aruba Tourism Authority rep. On picture you can admire the honorees together with Germaine and Reynold from the Radisson.□

John Hardy Spring 2013 Collection Trunk Show

ORANJESTAD - Diamonds International invites you to celebrate the launch of the John Hardy Spring 2013 Collection featuring the braided chain; a modern take on a classic collection. Three chains braided together; past, present and future each symbolizing the loves that have shaped our lives. Be the first to preview the newest designs and enjoy a personal consultation with a John Hardy stylist.

This event will continue from now through March 24th at our main store located in downtown Oranjestad, across from the main bus terminal.

A John Hardy raffle will take place every day starting today through March 24th. Come and visit us in order to participate! □



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\$6 for 4-Card BINGO! • 8 games to play!

\$1,000 in Cash Prizes!

Additional **\$500 Cash Prize** in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card prior to 12 noon!



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- Daher & Co
- Diamonds International
- Intermezzo ~ The Salon
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CASINO AND SHOPS

At Caribbean Queen:

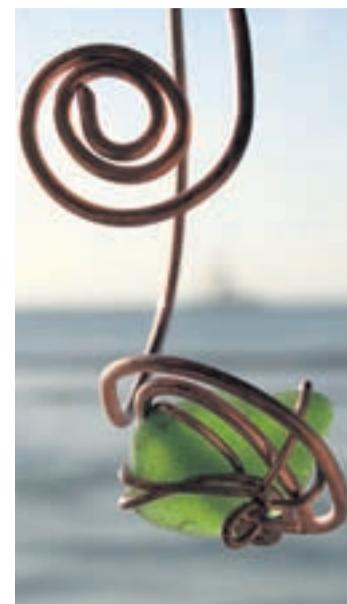
Live demonstration with artist Belinda De Veer today!

PALM BEACH – Artist Belinda de Veer will be available at Caribbean Queen, Palm Beach Plaza Mall, Today, Thursday, from 7pm to 9pm, for a live demonstration of her craft. The store has been honoring

beautiful and bold copper jewelry in the store and demonstrating the making of the pieces on the plaza under the stars on Thursday evening. Belinda is a well established plastic artist here. She was born in Aru-

arts and music peaked, and she followed various workshops at "Ateliers 89." The workshops were given by famed teachers from the Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam and it didn't take long before she transformed her home into an atelier, and a music studio, with room for her beloved piano which she has been playing since the age of nine.

In October 2012 Belinda presented a solo exhibition titled "Paraiso den Deserto," Paradise in the Desert, officially opened by the Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture, her Excellency Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar. One of the pieces exhibited was a sculpture made of copper cables from the now-defunct Valero oil refinery. The copper cables were amongst various recycled materials Belin-



da obtained from abandoned site. The sculpture titled "Jardin Encanta," Enchanted Garden, received its name thanks to the magical glow of the high grade red copper when illuminated by sunlight. Belinda also favored the green oxidation of copper and the fragile and brittle

look it projects despite its durability and strength. In honor of her solo exhibition, she also created a collection of copper jewelry, to always remind the wearer and admirer of the piece the importance of change and sustainability, pivotal for the survival of the world as we know it. Her copper jewelry is treated with wax. After each use, you are kindly asked to rinse your jewelry with water to remove body oils and salts, then towel your jewelry dry. If the jewelry dulls or tarnishes, instructions for cleaning and coating are available in the store. While creating copper jewelry, Belinda is also currently a student of the award winning Aruban Pianist Armand Simon.

Enjoy Belinda's jewelry throughout the month of March at Caribbean Queen, Palm Beach Plaza Mall. □



one local female artist who lives and creates here, every month, and Belinda is Caribbean Queen for the month of March, prominently displaying her

ba, yet lived and studied in the US for seven years, where she obtained a doctor's degree in pharmacy. Upon her return to the island her interest in visual

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweater has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words :fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Int'l. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com

Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95. **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

SPORTS**Aruba TODAY**

Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the ninth hole during the pro-am of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

Associated Press

Another chance for Woods to return to the top

DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — The Arnold Palmer Invitational is not the first chance for Tiger Woods to return to No. 1 in the world. But it might be his best.

A win this week would allow Woods to go back to No. 1 for the first time since October 2010.

Woods not only is the defending champion at Bay Hill, he is a seven-time winner on the course. Not only does his game look sharp, Woods already has two wins this year, both of them with comfortable margins on the back nine at Torrey Pines and Doral.

And his peers are paying attention.

"The one thing I don't think you give Tiger enough credit for is every time I see him tee it up, he hits it on the center of the bat — hits it solidly all the time," said Brandt Snedeker, who has done his viewing on television after sitting out the last five weeks with a rib injury. "That is a very underrated quality. Not very many guys do that."

Continued on Page 18

PERFECT 10

Penguins edge Capitals for 10th straight victory

Pittsburgh Penguins center Sidney Crosby (87) is upended by Washington Capitals' Brooks Laich (21) during the first period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh on Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

Associated Press
Page 19

Woods

Continued from Page 17

When guys have an off week, they tend to mishit it. When Tiger has an off week, it's not like that." Graeme McDowell saw it on the weekend at Doral, where he did his best to make up a deficit and Woods always had an answer, winning by two shots. McDowell also saw it a year ago at Bay Hill in fast, firm conditions that made it feel like Sunday at the U.S. Open. Woods closed with a 70 and won by five. "I think as difficult as this golf course played last year on Sunday afternoon,



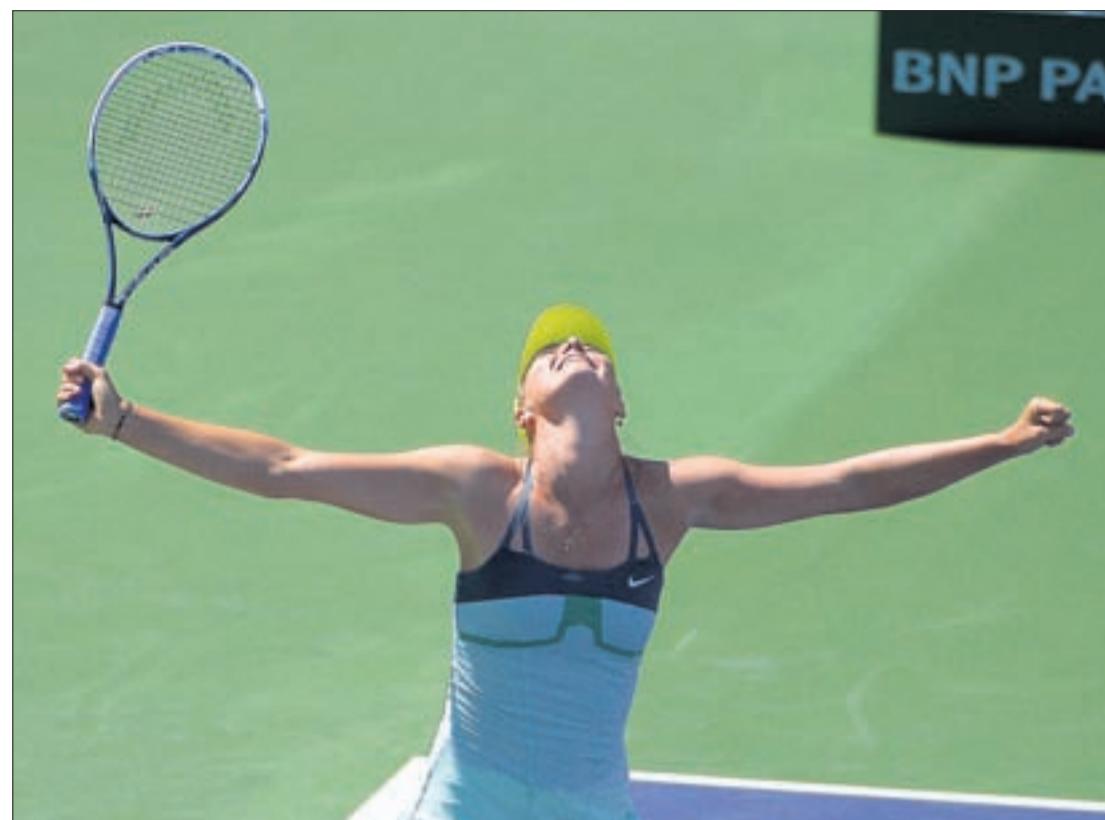
Tiger Woods watches his putt on the third green during the pro-am of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament in Orlando, Fla., Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

Associated Press

I watched the Tiger Woods that's won 14 major championships," McDowell said. "I watched a display of discipline. Conservative at times, but firing away from pins. When the golf course gets tougher, the guy is able to slip into a gear where he plays aggressive golf to conservative targets.

"When he's playing well, he's hard to beat. Especially when the golf course is as difficult as this one was last year on Sunday afternoon."

Woods sank to as low as No. 58 in November 2011 before making a gradual return toward the top, getting a power boost last year by winning three times. He went to the U.S. PGA Championship with a chance to reach No. 1 by winning, but then he failed to convert a 36-hole share of the lead. Rory McIlroy won at Kiawah Island, and with three more wins the rest of the way, he appeared to be entrenched at No. 1 for some time. □



Maria Sharapova, of Russia, celebrates her win over Caroline Wozniacki, of Denmark, in their match at the BNP Paribas Open tennis tournament on Sunday, March 17, 2013, in Indian Wells, Calif. Sharapova won 6-2, 6-2.

Associated Press

Sharapova aiming for rare double at Key Biscayne

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP)

— After winning the PNB Paribas Open last week, Maria Sharapova is aiming for a rare double when she lines up at the Sony Open. Only two players in WTA history have won back-to-back Indian Wells and Key Biscayne titles: Steffi Graf in 1994 and 1996, and Kim Clijsters in 2005.

Sharapova, who won her second BNP Paribas title with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Caroline Wozniacki on Sunday, isn't scheduled to play until Friday at the Sony Open.

All the seeded players in the men's and women's draw receive a first-round bye. "These tournaments are always really tough because they're close together," the No. 3-seeded Sharapova said. "As soon as you're done with the first one (Indian Wells) you're onto the next one and you're here. I'm looking forward to trying to take it a step further (here) this year."

Sharapova came close to achieving the back-to-back victories in 2006, winning the Indian Wells tournament and reaching the final at Key Biscayne.

Overall, she's been in four Sony Open finals, including last year when she lost to Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland. For Sharapova, who moved to the United States from Russia as a 9-year-old, the Sony Open is the event where she first watched professional tennis. "I have a lot of history here," Sharapova said. Miami "is the city where I first landed when I came to the United States. I've been a fan of this tournament since I was young because I came here with my family to watch it.

"And then I was able to play in it and be a part of it and I've been to three or four finals here. So, hopefully, I can lift the trophy here one day."

The fourth-seeded Radwanska won three titles last year and has 10 overall in her career. She's never successfully defended a title, but she's hoping the Sony Open could be the first time she achieves the feat.

"It's always great to be back at a place where you have great memories and had great matches," said Radwanska, who reached her first Grand Slam final at

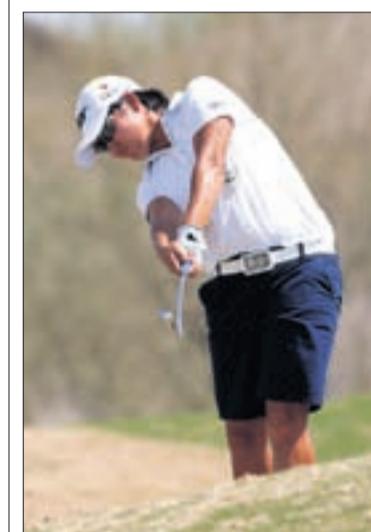
Wimbledon last year. "There's always pressure and a lot of points to defend. But every week the top players feel a lot of pressure."

There were 10 main draw women's matches played on Tuesday. Veteran Japanese player Kimiko Date-Krumm beat Chanelle Scheepers of South Africa 6-2, 6-0.

Two former top 10 players — Flavia Pennetta of Italy and Andrea Petkovic of Germany — were in action. Pennetta won her first-round match 6-4, 6-1 over Johanna Larsson of Sweden. Petkovic, playing in only her second tournament of the year following a knee injury at the Hopman Cup in January, defeated Bojana Jovanovski of Serbia 6-3, 6-1.

In other results, Ayumi Morita of Japan defeated Heather Watson of Britain 1-6, 7-5, 6-4, Kristina Mladenovic of France had a 7-5, 6-2 win over Aleksandra Wozniak of Canada and Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan battled in the second-set tiebreaker to secure a 6-4, 7-6 (15) victory over Lesia Tsurenko of Ukraine. □

Yani Tseng withdraws after missing pro-am tee time



Yani Tseng hits from the 17th fairway during the second round of the Founders Cup golf tournament, Friday, March 15, 2013, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP) — Defending champion and formerly top-ranked Yani Tseng was dropped from the Kia Classic field after missing her 9:10 a.m. pro-am tee time Wednesday.

"I'm embarrassed to admit that I wasn't feeling well last night and accidentally overslept and missed my tee time for the pro-am this morning," Tseng said in a statement released by the tour. "I was extremely excited to compete this week to defend my title at the Kia Classic and to try to regain the No. 1 spot. This was an unfortunate mistake and I want to apologize to Kia, my sponsors and all of the fans."

On Sunday, Stacy Lewis won the LPGA Founders Cup in Phoenix to end Tseng's 109-week run at No. 1.

Tseng is winless in 23 events since her Kia Classic victory last year. The 15-time LPGA Tour winner tied for 59th last week in Phoenix. She opened the season with a second-place finish in the Women's Australian Open, tied for third in the LPGA Thailand and completed the Asian swing with a tie for 28th in Singapore in the HSBC Women's Championships. □

Pens' win streak at 10 games with 2-1 victory

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Defenseman Matt Niskanen scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and Sidney Crosby had two assists as the Pittsburgh Penguins extended their winning streak to 10 with a 2-1 victory over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night.

Niskanen's goal at 11:58 came nine seconds after the Eastern Conference-leading Penguins killed a four-minute penalty.

The winning streak is the second-longest in the NHL this season.

Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves, and Crosby earned his NHL-leading 36th and 37th assists for the Penguins, who were without reigning MVP Evgeni Malkin (shoulder) for a sixth game.

Braden Holtby made 34 saves for Washington.

Alex Ovechkin gave Washington a 1-0 lead with a power-play goal in the second period, and Pittsburgh

tied it three minutes later when Paul Martin scored his sixth of the season. It was the Penguins' league-leading 28th goal on the power play.

RANGERS 3, DEVILS 2
NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Michael Del Zotto scored a short-handed goal and set up Rick Nash's game winner to lead the New York Rangers to a 3-2 victory over struggling New Jersey.

Carl Hagelin also scored and Henrik Lundqvist had 29 saves as the Rangers won their second game in two nights after a three-game losing streak. New York moved into a tie for eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Travis Zajac and Anton Volchenkov scored for New Jersey, which lost its third in a row (0-2-1) and slipped into a tie with New York, which has a game in hand. Devils goalie Martin Brodeur was on the bench for the first time in a month and is expected to play



Pittsburgh Penguins right wing Craig Adams (27) gets squeezed between Washington Capitals' Jay Beagle (83) and Jack Hillen (38) in the second period of an NHL hockey game in Pittsburgh Tuesday, March 19, 2013.

Associated Press

Thursday. New Jersey is 3-8-2 since he went down.

Johan Hedberg, who start-

ed all 13 games since Brodeur sustained a pinched nerve in his back, made 19

saves.
SENATORS 5, ISLANDERS 3
UNIONDALE, New York (AP) — Sergei Gonchar scored with 1 minute left for Ottawa, which netted four goals in the third period to beat the New York Islanders.

Gonchar's second goal of the season came on a blast from the point to make it 4-3, and Guillaume Latendresse added an empty-net goal to seal the win. Jakob Silfverberg and Zack Smith scored in a 68-second span early in the third period to tie the game after the Islanders led 3-1. Ottawa has won three straight. New York's Josh Bailey had scored the go-ahead goal 14 seconds into the second period, and Lubomir Visnovsky extended the Islanders' lead to two goals.

Keith Aucoin appeared to give the Islanders a 4-3 lead at 7:22, but the goal was disallowed because he kicked the puck past goalie Ben Bishop. □

Unbeaten Dominicans win World Baseball Classic

JANIE McCUALEY
AP Baseball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Edwin Encarnacion hit a two-run double in the first inning that held up, helping the Dominican Republic cap an unbeaten run through the World Baseball Classic with a 3-0 win over Puerto Rico in Tuesday's final. The Dominican Republic has its World Baseball Classic crown, at last.

"Tomorrow will be a national holiday," said Moises Alou, the Dominican general manager. "It was a tremendous win."

Robinson Cano earned MVP honors, Erick Aybar added an RBI double to back winner Samuel Deduno, and the demonstrative Dominican threw his arms into the air in delight after watching a run-saving defensive gem by center fielder Alejandro De Aza in a tough fifth.

The Dominican fans didn't let the Bay Area's wet weather keep them from dancing in the stands, waving flags and tooting horns. Flags became makeshift ponchos.

The celebrations spread to the Dominican capital, where some 50,000 more supporters gathered to watch on giant televisions inside and outside of Estadio Quisqueya.

Now the Dominicans get their long-awaited fiesta, a party they figured to have in 2009 until the Netherlands spoiled the plan by beating them twice for a stunning first-round exit.

After Fernando Rodney struck out Luis Figueroa to end it, the Dominicans rushed the mound — each player waving his own flag. The Dominicans, with eight consecutive wins, clinched the title in the very city where countrymen Felipe,

Jesus and the late Matty Alou made history in 1963 when they appeared in the same Giants outfield for several games. Moises Alou, son of former San Francisco skipper Felipe, is the Dominican general manager. No matter their team, Caribbeans had so much to cheer in the championship of a tournament missing the star-studded American team yet again. The U.S. failed to reach the final for the third time in as many WBCs.

Puerto Rico eliminated two-time Classic champion Japan with a 3-1 victory Sunday night to make in all-Caribbean final.

This game gave new meaning to the idea of a Caribbean championship. Deduno followed up a fine outing in a win against the Americans last Thursday with another strong performance that will send him



The Dominican Republic players raise the trophy after beating Puerto Rico in the championship game of the World Baseball Classic in San Francisco, Tuesday, March 19, 2013. The Dominican Republic won 3-0.

Associated Press

back to the Minnesota Twins with some nice momentum.

Deduno struck out five in five scoreless innings, allowing two hits and walking three to finish with a 0.69 ERA for the tournament. And Rodney struck out two and finished for his seventh save as the bullpen closed out this special

run with 25 2-3 scoreless innings. The relievers didn't allow a run after the fourth inning of their first-round victory against Puerto Rico on March 10 in San Juan.

"I'm excited and I'm thrilled," said reliever Santiago Casilla, who won the WBC title and World Series championship in all of about five months. □



CMB

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In 2012, CMB proudly celebrated fifty years of excellence in banking, business, people and community partnership. Like Aruba, our bank has evolved over the course of time; expanding capabilities, leveraging technology, growing, adapting and improving through strategic investments in success.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL POSITION

CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS IN AMOUNTS (AFL)

	2012	2011
Total Assets	1,433,796,000	1,328,697,000
Total Customer Deposits	1,191,481,000	1,120,457,000
Total Loans and Advances	927,141,000	858,534,000
Shareholder's Equity	159,724,000	141,735,000
Net Profit After Tax	49,330,000	43,964,000

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS IN PERCENTAGES (%)

Growth in Total Assets	7.91%
Growth in Total Customer Deposits	6.34%
Growth in Loans and Advances	7.99%
Growth in Net Profit After Tax	12.21%

OTHER KEY DATA OF THE CMB GROUP

	2012	2011
Staff	290	285
Branches	7	6
Bancomatco ATMs	46	45
Client Accounts	191,055	178,817

INCOME STATEMENT

The income presented in our financial statements represents the total income for all 4 companies operating onshore and international businesses based in Aruba. International business and investment activities are a key source and contributor to the bank's consolidated income. Net Profits after tax in accordance with Central Bank of Aruba's guidelines were AFL. 49 million.

All business areas contributed to these results and the net result after tax grew in 2012 by 12.21%.

From CMB N.V.'s total revenues, 26% went to paying personnel expenses, 20% to paying other operating expenses, 14% to paying taxes, 3% to strengthening our reserve for banking risks, and 37% to net profit, hence an appropriate distribution among all stakeholders.

FINANCIAL POSITION

CMB N.V.'s consolidated total assets at the end of December 2012 totaled AFL. 1,434 million, for an increase of 7.91%.

Our customer deposits showed an increase of 6.34%.

The total of loans and advances to customers increased by 7.99% over 2011.

At the end of December 2012, the book value of CMB N.V.'s Stockholder's Equity surpassed 160 million florin. As a result, CMB N.V. has a stronger capital base and is well positioned for the future. This solid capital base is a key strength that our communities and clients can depend on as we build for the future.

TAXES

CMB N.V. paid AFL. 17.5 million in profit taxes in 2012. This amount combined with employee wage and foreign exchange taxes resulted in CMB N.V. facilitating Land Aruba with amounts in excess of 35 million florin. Over the past ten years CMB N.V. has contributed well over 215 million florin to Aruba's tax revenues.

EMPLOYMENT

At the end of 2012, CMB N.V. directly employed 290 persons. During the year, CMB N.V. paid its employees total salaries and employee benefits amounting to AFL. 32.3 million.

COMMUNITY

CMB N.V. generously donated and financially sponsored approximately AFL. 500,000 to neighborhood, religious and sports organizations and to institutions benefiting the youth. Not included in these monetary figures is the assistance given by our volunteer staff to the young and the elderly, in organizations and in homes for the aged.

LOANS

A considerable portion of our loans portfolio is managed by Retail Loans, a division that achieved significant results by offering attractive mortgage and consumer lending products.

DANKT!

Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V. wants to thank its customers, employees, directors, affiliate, The Bank of Nova Scotia, and shareholder, Maduro & Curiel's Bank N.V., for their patronage and support, thereby making the year 2012 a successful one. Pabien!

For the full Consolidated Financial Highlights for the financial years 2012 and 2011, the Explanatory Notes to the Consolidated Financial Highlights, and the Auditors' Report thereto from KPMG Accountants B.V., please write to:

Annual Report 2012, P.O. Box 28, Caya G.F. Betico Croes 53 - Oranjestad, Aruba, for a free copy of our 2012 Annual Report.

Nuggets beat Thunder for first 13-game win streak

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Ty Lawson scored 25 points and Andre Miller had 20 points and nine assists as the Denver Nuggets beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 114-104 Tuesday night to win a 13th straight game for the first time since joining the NBA.

The Nuggets trailed by one at halftime but took control in the third quarter and never let Oklahoma City reclaim the lead. Denver moved within 3½ games of the Thunder in the Northwest Division and became the first team this season to beat Oklahoma City three times. It's also a big win in the chase for home-court advantage in the playoffs for Denver, which is level with Miami for the NBA's best home record at 30-3. Kevin Durant had 34 points and Russell Westbrook chipped in 25 for Oklahoma City, which lost at home for just the fifth time this season.

Denver's previous longest winning streak in the NBA was 12 straight games in 1982. The club won 15 in a row in the ABA.

PACERS 95, MAGIC 73

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Paul George scored 19 points and Tyler Hansbrough had 14 points and 14 rebounds, leading Indiana to a rout of struggling Orlando.

The Pacers improved to 27-8 at home despite play-

ing without second-leading scorer David West because of a sprained lower back. Maurice Harkless and Arron Afflalo each had 10 points for the Magic, who lost their fourth straight on a night they shot just 31.8 percent from the field and coach Jacque Vaughn was ejected in a flurry of four technical fouls with 4:47 left in the third quarter. The Pacers led 62-44 in the third and the Magic could get no closer than 12 the rest of the way.

BUCKS 102, TRAIL BLAZERS 95

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Brandon Jennings scored 24 points and Monta Ellis added 21 to help Milwaukee hang on for a victory over Portland.

Ellis added nine rebounds, eight assists, three steals and matched a career high with three blocks for Milwaukee, which outscored Portland 31-8 in the second quarter — the Trail Blazers' fewest points in any period this season. The Blazers shot a woeful 2 for 20 from the field in the quarter.

Portland fought back with 64 second-half points to make things interesting.

Wesley Matthews hit seven 3-pointers and scored 28 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge added 21 points and 14 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who lost for the 10th time in their last 11

road games.

KINGS 116, CLIPPERS 101
SACRAMENTO, California (AP) — Marcus Thornton had 25 points and Toney Douglas scored 17 of his 19

Portland Trail Blazers'
Damian Lillard passes the ball from the floor in front of Milwaukee Bucks' Brandon Jennings during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 19, 2013, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

in the fourth quarter as the Sacramento Kings rallied from eight down in the final 11 minutes to stun the Los Angeles Clippers 116-101. DeMarcus Cousins and Tyreke Evans added 17 points apiece for the Kings, who beat the Pacific Division-leading Clippers for the first time in more than two years.

They did it behind a stellar effort off the bench from Thornton and a smothering defense that held Los Angeles to just five buckets in the final quarter. □

qBlake Griffin had three of them and finished with 26 points, four rebounds and five assists for the Clippers. Los Angeles has lost four of its last seven.

In other NBA games it was Indiana 95, Orlando 73; Denver 114, Oklahoma City 104; Milwaukee 102, Portland 95; and Sacramento 116, L.A. Clippers 101. □

Bolt to run in Brussels meet on Sept. 6

MONACO (AP) —

Usain Bolt will run in the Diamond League meet in Brussels on Sept. 6, three weeks after the world championships in Moscow. The IAAF says the Jamaican sprinter will decide later in the year whether to race the 100 or 200 meters in Brussels.

It will be Bolt's sixth appearance in the Belgian capital. He clocked 9.77 seconds in the 100 into a stiff headwind in 2008 and smashed the meet record

in the 200 in 19.57 the next year.

Bolt is also due to run the 100 in Rome on June 6, the 200 in Oslo on June 13, the 4x100 relay in Ostrava, Czech Republic, on June 27, and the 200 in Paris on July 6. The world championships are from Aug. 10-18. □



This is a Sunday, Aug. 5, 2012 file photo of Jamaica's Usain Bolt reacts to his win in the men's 100-meter final during the athletics in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London.

Associated Press





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Fri 4:45
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Sun & Hol 2:30 / 4:45

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STOKER

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Nicholas Hoult

Ewan McGregor

JACK THE GIANT SLAYER

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Fri 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00 / 11:30
Sat 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00 / 11:30
Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:30 / 9:00

Miguel Céspedes

Raymond Pozo

Spanish

Mon - Thurs 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20
Fri 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40
Sat 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40
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Bruce Willis

Jai Courtney

A GOOD DAY TO DIE HARD

With Spanish Subtitles

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PG-13

Report: 1 in 3 seniors dies with, not of, dementia

L. NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A staggering 1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia, says a new report that highlights the impact the mind-destroying disease is having on the rapidly aging population.

Dying with Alzheimer's is not the same as dying from it. But even when dementia isn't the direct cause of death, it can be the final blow — speeding someone's decline by interfering with their care for heart disease, cancer or other serious illnesses. That's the assessment of the report released Tuesday by the Alzheimer's Association, which advocates for more research and support for families afflicted by it.

"Exacerbated aging," is how Dr. Maria Carrillo, an association vice president, terms the Alzheimer's effect. "It changes any health care situation for a family."

In fact, only 30 percent of 70-year-olds who don't have Alzheimer's are expected to die before their 80th birthday. But if they do have dementia, 61 percent are expected to die,

the report found.

Already, 5.2 million Americans have Alzheimer's or some other form of de-

had Alzheimer's listed as an underlying cause on a death certificate, perhaps because the dementia led

ily ease some dementia symptoms.

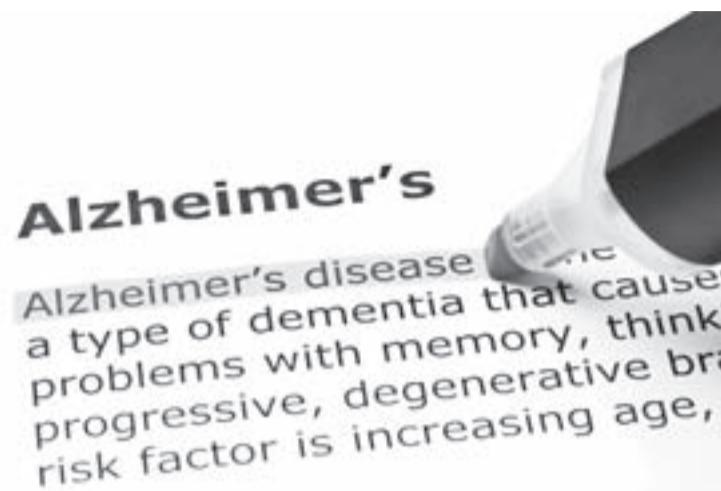
But what's on a death certificate is only part of the story.

Consider: Severe dementia can make it difficult for people to move around or swallow properly. That increases the risk of pneumonia, one of the most commonly identified causes of death among Alzheimer's patients.

Likewise, dementia patients can forget their medications for diabetes, high blood pressure or other illnesses. They may not be able to explain they are feeling symptoms of other ailments such as infections. They're far more likely to be hospitalized than other older adults. That in turn increases their risk of death within the following year.

"You should be getting a sense of the so-called blurred distinction between deaths among people with Alzheimer's and deaths caused by Alzheimer's. It's not so clear where to draw the line," said Jennifer Weuve of Chicago's Rush University, who helped study that very question.

The Chicago Health and Aging Project tracked



A new study suggests that dying with Alzheimer's is not the same as dying from it. But even when dementia isn't the direct cause of death, it can be the final blow.

(Handout Photo)

mentia. Those numbers will jump to 13.8 million by 2050, Tuesday's report predicts. That's slightly lower than some previous estimates.

Count just the deaths directly attributed to dementia, and they're growing fast. Nearly 85,000 people died in America from Alzheimer's in 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in a separate report Tuesday. Those are people who

to respiratory failure. Those numbers make Alzheimer's the sixth leading cause of death. That U.S. death rate rose 39 percent in the past decade, even as the CDC found that deaths declined among some of the nation's other top killers — heart disease, cancer, stroke and diabetes. The reason: Alzheimer's is the only one of those leading killers to have no good treatment. Today's medications only temporar-

ily ease some dementia symptoms. But what's on a death certificate is only part of the story. Consider: Severe dementia can make it difficult for people to move around or swallow properly. That increases the risk of pneumonia, one of the most commonly identified causes of death among Alzheimer's patients. Likewise, dementia patients can forget their medications for diabetes, high blood pressure or other illnesses. They may not be able to explain they are feeling symptoms of other ailments such as infections. They're far more likely to be hospitalized than other older adults. That in turn increases their risk of death within the following year.

"You should be getting a sense of the so-called blurred distinction between deaths among people with Alzheimer's and deaths caused by Alzheimer's. It's not so clear where to draw the line," said Jennifer Weuve of Chicago's Rush University, who helped study that very question.

The Chicago Health and Aging Project tracked

the health of more than 10,000 older adults over time. Weuve's team used the data to estimate how many people nationally will die with Alzheimer's this year — about 450,000, according to Tuesday's report. That's compatible with the 1 in 3 figure the Alzheimer's Association calculates for all dementias. That number is based on a separate analysis of Medicare data that includes both Alzheimer's cases and deaths among seniors with other forms of dementia. Last year, the Obama administration set a goal of finding effective Alzheimer's treatments by 2025, and increased research funding to help. It's not clear how the government's automatic budget cuts, which began earlier this month, will affect those plans.

But Tuesday's report calculated that health and long-term care services will total \$203 billion this year, much of that paid by Medicare and Medicaid and not counting unpaid care from family and friends. That tab is expected to reach \$1.2 trillion by 2050, barring a research breakthrough, the report concluded. □

Citing genetic diseases:

UK says public OK with creating babies from 3 people

MARIA CHENG

AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain's fertility regulator says it has found broad public support for in vitro fertilization techniques that allow babies to be created with DNA from three people for couples at risk of passing on potentially fatal genetic diseases.

It also found there was no evidence to suggest the techniques were unsafe, but said further research was still necessary.

Critics, however, slammed the decision as a breach of ethics, saying there were already safe methods like egg donation to allow people to have children without mitochondrial defects.

Britain's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority began a public discussion of the topic at the government's request last year.

"Although some people have concerns about the safety of these techniques, we found that they trust the scientific experts and the regulator to know when it is appropriate to make them available to patients," Lisa Jardine, chair of the group, said in a statement Wednesday.

British law forbids altering a human egg or an embryo before transferring it into a woman, so such treatments are currently only allowed for research. The regulator will now pass its findings to the government, which would need

Parliamentary permission to change the law.

Similar research is going on in the U.S., where the embryos are not being used to produce children. About one in 200 children every year in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder,

faults in a cell's energy source that are contained outside the nucleus in a normal female egg. Mistakes in the mitochondria's genetic code can result in serious diseases such as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, heart problems and mental retardation.

When a method to avoid these faults was first successfully used in 2008, headlines announced that scientists had created a

child with three parents — two biological mothers and a father. But scientists said that was inaccurate, since there are only trace bits of genetic material from one woman.

There are two procedures to avoid passing on faulty mitochondria.

The first involves using an egg from one woman with mitochondrial defects and the sperm of the father. Scientists then put that embryo into an emptied egg from a second woman with healthy mitochondria. The DNA from the second woman amounts to less than 1 percent of the embryo's genes.

In the second technique, scientists transfer nuclear DNA out of a day-old em-

bryo with defective mitochondria. The DNA is implanted into another single-cell embryo with normal mitochondria.

The nuclear DNA from the donor embryo is discarded, leaving the healthy mitochondria.

Experts say the new techniques would likely only be used in about a dozen U.K. women every year.

David King, director of Human Genetics Alert, called the HFEA recommendations "a travesty of basic medical ethics."

His group is a secular organization that opposes many genetics and fertilization experiments.

Others, however, called it progress for those with mitochondrial diseases. □

Monitoring your kids on Facebook? That's so 2009.

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Relieved your kids aren't posting embarrassing messages and goofy self-portraits on Facebook? They're probably doing it on Instagram and Snapchat instead.

The number of popular social media sites available on kids' mobile devices has exploded in recent years. The smartest apps now enable kids to chat informally with select groups of friends without bumping up against texting limits and without being monitored by parents, coaches and college admissions officers, who are frequent Facebook posters themselves.

Many of the new mobile apps don't require a cellphone or a credit card. They're free and can be used on popular portable devices such as the iPod Touch and Kindle Fire, as long as there's a wireless Internet connection.

According to the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project, more than three-fourths of American teenagers have a cellphone and use online social networking sites such as Facebook. But educators and kids say there is plenty of anecdotal evidence to suggest that Facebook for teenagers has become a bit like a school-sanctioned prom — a necessary rite of passage with plenty of adult

onlookers — while apps such as Snapchat and Kik Messenger are the much cooler after-party. Educators say they have seen everything from kids using their mobile devices

Eileen Patterson, a stay-at-home mom of eight kids in Burke, Virginia, said she used to consider herself fairly tech savvy and is frequently on Facebook, but was shocked to learn

thing that happened to some poor child and their family, and then I try to be more vigilant. But the reality is, I'm ...stupid" when it comes to social media. Mobile apps refer to the



In this March 4, 2013 photo, Rebecca Levey, mother of 10-year old twin daughters, poses for a photograph in the girls' bedroom in New York.

Associated Press

to circulate online videos of school drug searches to male students sharing nude pictures of their girlfriends. Most parents, they say, have no idea.

"What sex education used to be — it's now the 'technology talk' we have to have with our kids," said Rebecca Levey, a mother of 10-year-old twin daughters who runs a tween video review site called KidzVuz.com and blogs about technology and education issues.

her kids could message their friends with just an iPod Touch. She counts nine wireless devices in her home and has taken to shutting off her home's Wi-Fi after 9 p.m., but Patterson calls her attempt to keep tabs on her kids' online activity "a war I'm slowly losing every day." "I find myself throwing up my hands every now and again," Patterson said. "Then I'll see something on TV or read an article in the paper about some horrible

software applications that can be downloaded to a mobile device through an online store such as Apple's iTunes.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, there are some 800,000 apps available through Apple and 700,000 apps on Google Play.

Among the most popular mobile apps among kids is Instagram, free software that digitally enhances photos and posts them to your account online. The

photos can be shared on other social media sites such as Facebook, which bought Instagram last year. Then there's Snapchat, among the top 10 free iPhone apps available. Coined by the media as the "sexting" app, Snapchat lets you send a text, photo or video that self-destructs within 10 seconds of being opened.

Kik Messenger also allows unlimited texting for free and offers anonymity to its users. Able to run on an iPod Touch or Kindle Fire, Kik allows vague user names — for example, a nickname or a string of random digits — that won't reveal a person's real name or phone number.

But as with anything online, each of these apps comes with serious caveats.

Snapchat, for example, acknowledges on its Web page that its messages aren't guaranteed to disappear: Anyone receiving a text or photo can use their 10 seconds to capture a "screenshot," or photo of their device's screen, and save that image to their phone. Video also can be downloaded, although Snapchat says it alerts senders when their data is saved. Instagram is generally considered pretty tame as long as kids adjust their privacy settings to limit who can see their photos and don't post nudity, which could subject them to child pornography laws. □

Yahoo brings back 5 ex-employees in latest deal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Yahoo has bought Silicon Valley startup Jybe so it can bring back five of its former engineers to help the Internet company build better mobile applications. The deal announced Wednesday marks Yahoo's fourth acquisition of a small startup during the past five months. In each instance, Yahoo been more interested in obtaining the startups' brainpower than the services that they provided. As with its other recent ac-

quisitions, Yahoo Inc. didn't disclose the purchase price.

Jybe's mobile service that gathered people's recommendations about food and entertainment is closing down so its five employees can focus on other projects at Yahoo Inc. All five Jybe workers were formerly employed at Yahoo before the company hired former Google Inc. executive Marissa Mayer as its CEO eight months ago. The recent acquisitions are

part of Mayer's effort to bring in more expertise in designing mobile applications to give Yahoo a better chance of connecting with the steadily growing audience that are relying on smartphones and tablet computers to reach online services instead of personal computers.

The group of Jybe employees returning to Yahoo includes Arnab Bhattacharjee, who was a vice president of search at the company before leaving

nearly two years ago while Carol Bartz was CEO. Bartz had negotiated a deal that turned the responsibility for providing most of Yahoo's search results to Microsoft Corp. That move triggered a wave of defections on Yahoo's own internal search team.

After focusing on nothing but small acquisitions under Mayer's command, Yahoo may be working on something bigger. Earlier this week, The Wall Street Journal reported that Yahoo is

in preliminary discussion to buy a controlling stake in online video site Dailymotion from France Telecom SA. The report cited anonymous people familiar with the talks.

Yahoo declined to comment on The Journal's report.

The Journal indicated Yahoo is considering buying a 75 percent stake in Dailymotion for about \$225 million. Yahoo's stock dipped 6 cents to \$22.11 in early afternoon trading. □

FedEx profit falls on weak airfreight business

DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Package delivery company FedEx said Wednesday that third-quarter profit fell 31 percent as customers shifted to slower and less-expensive international air-shipping options, and it cut its forecast of full-year earnings.

The company says it will cut capacity to and from Asia starting next month and might retire some of its older airplanes.

FedEx shares fell \$5.64, or 5.3 percent, to \$100.82 in midday trading.

FedEx Corp. said its net in-

come fell to \$361 million, or \$1.13 per share, in the three months ended Feb. 28. That's down from \$521 million, or \$1.65 per share, a year earlier.

Excluding costs of voluntary buyouts for some U.S. employees, the company says it would have earned \$1.23 per share.

Revenue rose 4 percent to \$11 billion.

Analysts were looking for \$1.38 per share and revenue of \$10.9 billion, according to FactSet.

The company's fiscal year ends in May. It expects adjusted earnings between \$1.90 and \$2.10 per share

in its fourth quarter and \$6 to \$6.20 per share for the year. That is below analysts' forecasts of \$2.12 and

\$6.35 per share, respectively.

Memphis-based FedEx is the world's second-biggest



A FedEx cargo jet taxis on the runway after landing at Miami International Airport in Miami.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

package delivery company. It's seen as a gauge of the overall economy because so many consumers and a range of businesses use its shipping services. Chairman and CEO Frederick W. Smith said the company's fiscal third quarter, which ended Feb. 28, was "very challenging" due to weakness in the global air freight business and customers picking slower, less-expensive ways to ship packages. Smith said the company will respond by cutting capacity to Asia and directing less profitable shipments into "lower-cost networks." □

Chinese solar company's operating unit declares bankruptcy

KEITH BRADSHER

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HONG KONG — Suntech Power, a Chinese manufacturer that became the world's largest producer of solar panels by 2011 only to be battered by plummeting prices, announced Wednesday that its main operating subsidiary had been pushed into bankruptcy by eight Chinese banks.

Suntech was the Icarus of the solar panel industry, with production that soared year after year on heavy investment, as Western investors bought up its

New York-traded shares and its international debt issues. But a 10-fold expansion of overall Chinese solar panel manufacturing capacity from 2008 to 2012 produced a three-quarters drop in solar panel prices, undermining the economics of the business. Rapid expansion of natural gas production in the United States and a curtailment of subsidies in the European Union also hurt solar panel prices, as did a U.S. imposition last year of import tariffs. The European Union is also completing its own trade investigation of Chi-

nese solar panel shipments that could lead to steep tariffs there as well.

Ocean Yuan, the president of Grape Solar, an importer of solar panels that is based in Eugene, Ore., said he foresaw a series of bankruptcies by big Chinese solar panel manufacturers, some of which have very high debt ratios like Suntech's. Chinese manufacturers lost as much as \$1 for every \$3 of sales last year as they struggled to keep factories open despite ever-falling prices.

"They are bleeding every day: the more they sell, the

more they lose money," Yuan wrote in an email.

The Chinese banks quietly asked a court Monday in Wuxi to declare the operating subsidiary, Wuxi Suntech, to be insolvent and begin restructuring it. The operating subsidiary notified the court on Wednesday that it did not object to the insolvency petition.

Suntech Power, the parent, said that it was not filing for bankruptcy and would continue to honor warranties on the company's solar panels.

The bankruptcy filing is widely expected to lead to

a takeover of the Wuxi operations by Wuxi Guolian, a financial conglomerate controlled by the city government of Wuxi.

In announcing the bankruptcy of Wuxi Suntech, the corporate parent did not specify the debts of its subsidiary. Xinhua, the Chinese state-run news agency, said Wuxi Suntech owed 7.1 billion renminbi (\$1.1 billion) to nine Chinese banks; Xinhua did not explain why only eight banks joined the insolvency petition, or the extent of the loans to Wuxi Suntech by the unidentified ninth bank. □

JPMorgan, MF Global trustee reach agreement

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — JPMorgan Chase has agreed to a deal that will return \$546 million to former customers of trading firm MF Global Holdings Ltd., which collapsed in 2011 with \$1.6 billion missing from its accounts.

MF Global failed in October after a calamitous bet on European debt spooked its investors, partners and clients. The bankruptcy was the eighth-largest in the U.S. and the largest on Wall Street since the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers. Much of the missing money belonged to farmers, ranchers and other

business owners who used MF Global to reduce their risks from fluctuating prices

of commodities such as corn and wheat. A House panel has said credit rat-



People stand in the lobby of JPMorgan Chase headquarters in New York. J.P. Morgan Chase has reached a \$546 million settlement with MF Global Holdings to reimburse cash that was misplaced from customers' accounts when the trading firm collapsed in 2011.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

ing agencies and federal regulators contributed to MF Global's collapse.

But it pinned most of the blame on risky strategies by ex-CEO Jon Corzine, the former New Jersey governor.

JPMorgan held MF Global funds in several accounts and also processed the firm's securities trades. The trustee tasked with getting customers' money back, James W. Giddens, threatened to sue the New York bank if it didn't return money that was transferred to the bank from MF Global. By June 2012, JPMorgan had returned \$608 million to the firm.

Under a settlement agreement filed Tuesday in Manhattan bankruptcy court, JPMorgan Chase has agreed to pay \$100 million to reimburse customers and will relinquish claims on \$417 million that it previously returned.

JPMorgan also will return over \$29 million that it is holding as security on an MF Global credit line. The recovered money will eventually be passed along to customers.

Bank spokeswoman Jennifer Zuccarelli said the bank was pleased to reach the settlement, which would help restore funds to MF Global's customers. □

Shrugging Cyprus, stocks rise as Fed stands by stimulus

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

Fear of a revived debt crisis in Europe faded from the stock market Wednesday, freeing the Dow Jones industrial average to touch an all-time.

After dipping Monday on concerns that Cyprus would become the latest European nation to stir fiscal chaos, the Dow posted its second straight day of gains.

Stocks traded steadily higher for most of the day and spiked after the Federal Reserve said it will continue with aggressive measures to boost the economy. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke said that Cyprus crisis posed no major risk to the U.S. economy.

The Dow was up 44 points shortly before the Fed announcement. It rose as much as 91 points shortly after the Fed released its policy statement at 2 p.m., touching an all-time high of 14,546 at 2:25 p.m. (1825 GMT).

The Fed said the U.S. economy has strengthened after pausing late last year, but still needs support from

the central bank. The Fed plans to continue buying \$85 billion in bonds per month indefinitely to keep long-term borrowing costs down and spur investment. It also said it would keep short-term interest rates at record lows, at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent.

Unemployment fell last month to 7.7 percent, the lowest in four years. The Fed doesn't expect the rate to reach its target until 2015.

The Dow closed up 55.91 points Wednesday, or 0.4 percent, to 14,511.73.

Stock markets were little changed Tuesday despite rising uncertainty in Cyprus. Anyone watching "would conclude that the market decided Cyprus is overblown as an issue," said Brian Gendreau, a strategist at Cetera Financial Group. Gendreau said traders had been concerned about what precedent might be set by Cyprus' efforts to avoid a crisis. A plan to seize money from bank savings accounts was met with outrage and was rejected Tuesday by the is-

land nation's parliament. The nation's unusual status as an international financial haven makes it an unlikely roadmap for future rescue efforts.

to exit the euro currency group. That could roil global financial markets.

Attention had returned to Europe this week after several months' respite, dur-

extra cash to help prop up Europe's commercial banks.

Among stocks making big news was FedEx. The shipping company reported sharply lower quarterly earnings and said it will cut capacity to Asia. FedEx is seen as a bellwether for the broader economy because air shipments are tied closely to the pace of business activity.

FedEx sank \$7.33, or 6.9 percent, to \$99.13.

Adobe soared after reporting strong first-quarter earnings. The company, which makes Adobe Reader and Photoshop, said it has picked up more subscriptions to online versions of its software products. The stock rose \$1.71, or 4.2 percent, to \$42.46.

In other trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 10.37 points, or 0.7 percent, to 1,558.71. The Nasdaq composite index rose 25.09, or 0.8 percent, to 3,254.19.

The S&P 500 is just six points below its all-time high of 1,565, reached in October 2007. It is up 9.3 percent so far this year.

The Dow is up 10.7 percent for the year. From March 1 through March 14, the index had a 10-day winning streak — its longest since 1996. The streak boosted the Dow by 484 points, to 14,539. Following a two-day dip Friday and Monday, the Dow has added 60 points to 14,511. □



A television screen on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange shows the decision of the Federal Reserve, Wednesday, March 20, 2013. In a statement after a two-day meeting, the Fed stood by its plan to keep short-term rates at record lows at least until unemployment falls to 6.5 percent, as long as the inflation outlook remains mild.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

"I think the market's going to start looking at other things," he said.

Cyprus was negotiating with international lenders, seeking support for its ailing financial system. Without a bailout deal, Cyprus' banks could collapse, devastating the country's economy and potentially forcing it

ing which traders focused on the strengthening U.S. economy and drove stocks to multi-year highs.

Over the previous two years, concerns about a breakup of the euro currency often dominated trading of U.S. stocks. The jitters receded after central banks provided enough

Oracle misses 3Q revenue expectations, shares fall

NEW YORK (AP) — Oracle says its fiscal third-quarter revenue declined by 1 percent, falling short of analysts' expectations and sending shares down sharply in after-hours trading. Oracle Corp. said

Wednesday that it earned \$2.5 billion, or 52 cents per share, in the December-February quarter. That's up from \$2.5 billion, or 49 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier. Adjusted earnings were 65 cents per

share in the latest quarter. Revenue fell 1 percent to \$8.96 billion.

Analysts polled by FactSet expected earnings of 66 cents per share, excluding charges for past acquisitions and other costs, on

revenue of \$9.38 billion. Oracle says new software licenses and online subscriptions fell 2 percent to 2.3 billion. The company had predicted that number would rise by 3 percent to 13 percent. □

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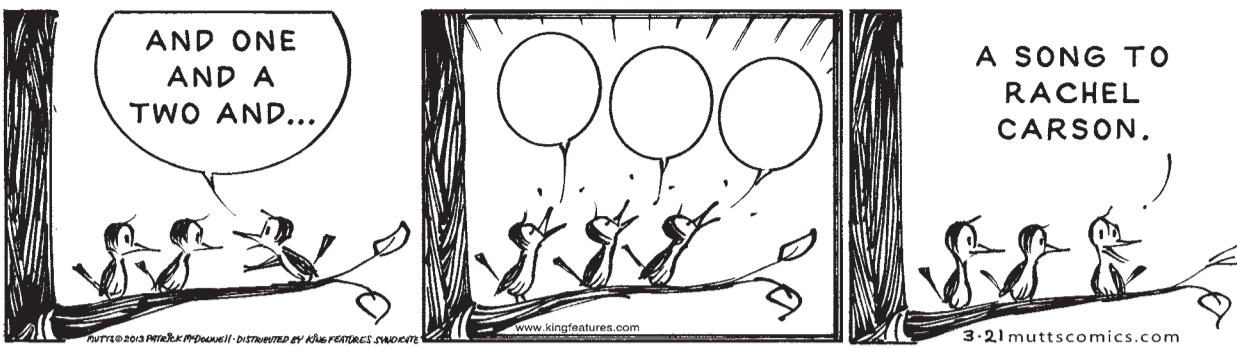


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A partially solved 9x9 Sudoku grid. The visible numbers are:

			5					
7	6				2	1		
3			9			8		
		4		6				
5	4				6		2	
		5		3				
1			4			7		
9	3				1	5		
			7					

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/21

Difficulty Level ★★☆

3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

7	2	8	3	1	4	6	5	9
6	5	3	7	2	9	8	1	4
1	9	4	6	5	8	2	7	3
2	6	9	4	7	3	1	8	5
8	4	1	5	9	2	3	6	7
3	7	5	1	8	6	4	9	2
9	1	2	8	3	5	7	4	6
4	3	7	9	6	1	5	2	8
5	8	6	2	4	7	9	3	1

ACROSS

- ACROSS**

 - 1 Toy dogs with wrinkly faces
 - 5 African nation
 - 10 Seaweed
 - 14 Perched upon
 - 15 Passenger
 - 16 Penniless
 - 17 Poet Teasdale
 - 18 Parent or grandparent
 - 19 Scheme
 - 20 Frozen dessert
 - 22 Trump and Rumsfeld
 - 24 Barbie's beau
 - 25 Waste disposal system
 - 26 Eucalyptus-loving marsupial
 - 29 Unhappy
 - 30 Asp's poison
 - 34 Abounding
 - 35 Chum
 - 36 Go over again in one's mind
 - 37 Heavyweight Muhammad
 - 38 Bullfighter
 - 40 Ford or Lincoln
 - 41 Mel or José
 - 43 Rotten
 - 44 Sandwich shop
 - 45 Cornered
 - 46 ___ as a fox
 - 47 Most terrible
 - 48 Actor Willem
 - 50 Nickname for Harold
 - 51 Upper ___; high level of society
 - 54 Oil and ___; salad dressing
 - 58 Azure or navy
 - 59 Home of logs
 - 61 Renown
 - 62 Soothing salve
 - 63 Leaning
 - 64 Come ___; find
 - 65 Mineral springs
 - 66 Freeway divisions
 - 67 In case

DOWN

 - 1 Go by
 - 2 Provo's state

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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37

Lawmaker: NKorea nukes could spark Asia arms race

MATTHEW PENNINGTON

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—North Korea's development of a nuclear weapon risks provoking an atomic arms race in East Asia, a senior Republican lawmaker warned Wednesday.

House Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce said South Korea, Japan and Taiwan might seek nuclear weapons if Pyongyang realizes its ambition to miniaturize nuclear warhead it can mount on a missile.

He said this was likely weighing heavily on the mind of China, which was losing patience with its North Korean ally after it ignored warnings not to conduct its latest nuclear test. The Feb. 12 underground explosion, the North's third, followed a successful long-range rocket launch in December, and drew the stiffest international sanctions yet against the North, with China's support.

Royce said the North's young leader, Kim Jong Un, was aggressive and had shown "flagrant disregard" for Beijing's counsel, which had caused consternation

in China as it weighed the consequences.

"It's clear that the danger of a nuclear arms race in east Asia is very real," Royce told The Associated Press after speaking on Asia policy at the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank.

South Korea, Japan and Taiwan all have civilian nuclear programs but have eschewed weapons development. The United States, which recently announced steps to boost its own missile defense system against the North Korean threat, provides the protection of its nuclear deterrent to both Seoul and Tokyo.

Royce also voiced concern about cooperation between North Korea and Iran, saying they are known to have shared missile technology and that cooperation may extend into the nuclear realm.

"I think everyone suspects it is (going on) and I would be surprised if it were not, given the other transfers that have occurred between North Korea and Iran," he said. □

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Amazon CEO recovers Apollo engines from Atlantic Ocean



In this image provided by Bezos Expeditions, workers inspect a thrust chamber of an Apollo F-1 engine recovered from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean in March 2013.

Associated Press

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rusty pieces of two Apollo-era rocket engines that helped boost astronauts to the moon have been fished out of the murky depths of the Atlantic, Amazon.com CEO Jeff Bezos and NASA said Wednesday.

A privately funded expedition led by Bezos raised the main engine parts during three weeks at sea and was headed back to Cape Canaveral, Florida, the launch pad for the manned lunar missions.

"We've seen an underwater wonderland — an incredible sculpture garden of twisted F-1 engines that tells the story of a fiery and violent end," Bezos wrote in an online posting.

Last year, the Bezos team used sonar to spot the sunken engines resting nearly 3 miles (5 kilometers) deep in the Atlantic and 360 miles (579 kilometers) from Cape Canaveral. At the time, the Internet mogul said the artifacts were part of the Apollo 11 mission that gave the world "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Bezos now says it's unclear which Apollo mission the recovered engines belonged to because the serial numbers were missing or hard to read on the corroded pieces. NASA

is helping trace the hardware's origin. Apollo astronauts were launched aboard the mighty Saturn V rocket during the 1960s and 1970s. Each rocket had a cluster of five engines, which produced about 7 1/2 million pounds of thrust. After liftoff, the engines — each weighing 18,000 pounds (8,166 kilograms) — fell to the ocean as designed, with no plans to retrieve them. Bezos and his team sent underwater robots to hoist the engines, which are NASA property. In a statement, NASA Administrator Charles Bolden called the recovery "a historic find." Bezos plans to restore the engine parts, which included a nozzle, turbine, thrust chamber and heat exchanger. Amazon.com Inc. spokesman Drew Herdener declined Wednesday to reveal the cost of the recovery or restoration. NASA has previously said an engine would head for the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum. If a second was recovered, it would be displayed at the Museum of Flight in Seattle, where Amazon.com is based.

The ocean floor off Cape Canaveral is strewn with jettisoned rockets and flight parts from missions since the beginning of the Space Age. What survived

after plunging into the ocean is unknown.

In one of the more famous recoveries, a private company in 2009 hoisted Gus Grissom's Mercury capsule that accidentally sank in the Atlantic after splashdown in 1961. The capsule is now featured at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. Besides running the online retailer, Bezos founded Blue Origins, one of the companies with a NASA contract to develop a spaceship to carry astronauts to the International Space Station. □

German researchers publish full Neanderthal genome

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Researchers in Germany said Tuesday they have completed the first high-quality sequencing of a Neanderthal genome and are making it freely available online for other scientists to study. The genome produced from remains of a toe bone found in a Siberian cave is far more detailed than a previous "draft" Neanderthal genome sequenced three years ago by the same team at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

"This allows even the small differences between the copies of genes that this Neanderthal individual inherited from its mother and father to be distinguished," the institute said in a statement.

The team led by geneticist Svante Paabo now hopes to compare the new genome sequence to that of other Neanderthals, as well as to that of a Denisovan — another extinct human species whose genome was previously extracted from remains found in the same Siberian cave.

"We will gain insights into

many aspects of the history of both Neanderthals and Denisovans and refine our knowledge about the genetic changes that occurred in the genomes of modern humans after they parted ways with the ancestors of Neanderthals and Denisovans," Paabo said.

The group plans to publish a scientific paper on the issue later this year.

In the meantime, the genome sequence is being made freely available so scientists elsewhere can conduct research on it, he said.

The announcement was welcomed by other researchers.

Wil Roebroeks, an archaeologist at Leiden University in the Netherlands who wasn't involved in the Leipzig study, said it was "exciting times" for comparative studies of humans and our closest extinct relatives.

By combining findings from genetics with studies of early diets, technology and physical anthropology of different human species, scientists would likely yield new insights into our evolutionary past soon, he said. □



Undated handout picture made available by the The Norwegian Academy of Science on Wednesday March 20, 2013 of Pierre Deligne winner of the 2013 Abel Prize.

Associated Press

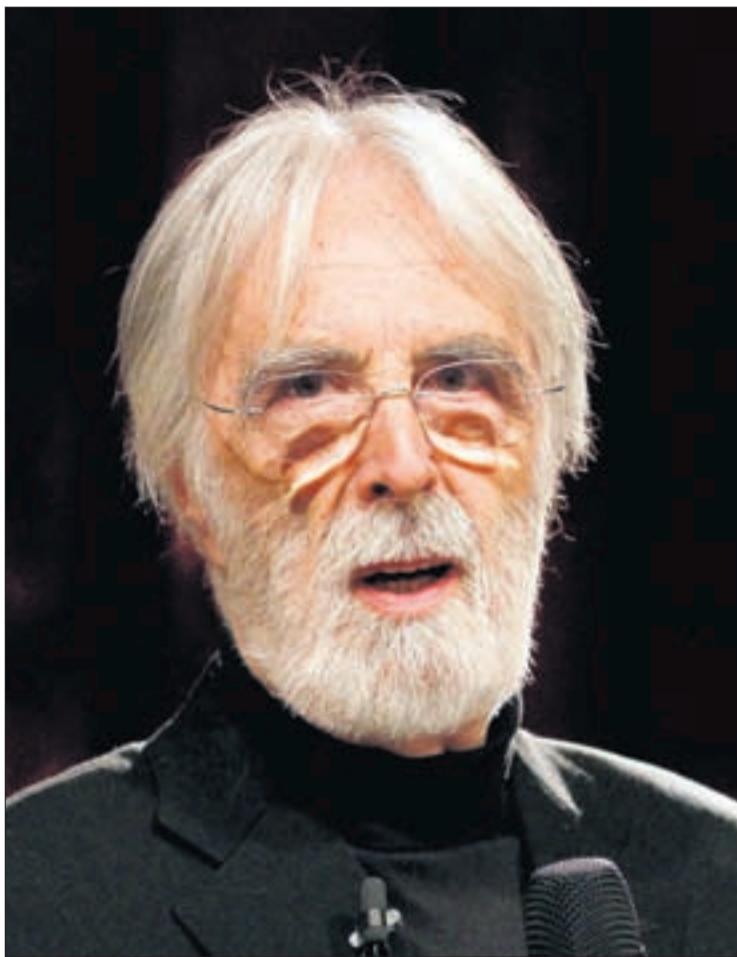
Belgian wins Norway's \$1M Abel math prize

OSLO, Norway (AP) — Belgian-born Pierre Deligne has won this year's \$1-million Abel Prize in mathematics for his contributions to algebraic geometry and their "transformative impact on number theory, representation theory and related fields."

The Norwegian mathematics award committee says the 68-year-old professor of mathematics has excelled in finding connections between various fields of mathematics, leading to several important discoveries. Deligne is professor

emeritus at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. He arrived in Princeton from the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques at Bures-sur-Yvette near Paris, where he was appointed its youngest ever permanent member in 1970.

Deligne, who has several mathematical concepts named after him, has written some 100 papers on mathematics. He is an honorary member of the Moscow Mathematical Society and the London Mathematical Society. □



Austrian director Michael Haneke speaks during a presentation of humanistic aging research in Vienna, Austria, Wednesday, March 20, 2013.

Associated Press

Oscar winner gets Austria geriatric society prize

VIENNA (AP) — It isn't an Oscar or any other film industry prize, but Austrian director Michael Haneke says he is grateful for his award from the Austrian Society of Geriatric Medicine. After all, he jokes, it comes with cash. Haneke's "Amour" — this year's Academy Award winner for best foreign movie — also caught the eye of the society. It honored him

Wednesday for its portrayal of a couple trying to come to terms with sickness and old age.

"Amour" also won a Golden Globe and Haneke said the time was right for the film, saying it "would have failed miserably 10 or 15 years ago."

Tongue in cheek, he also said he was happy about the 5,000 euros (\$6,500) that come with the honor, "which can't be said of most awards." □

Stephen King, wife pledge \$3M to Maine library

BANGOR, Maine (AP) — Stephen King and his wife have agreed to pay \$3 million to overhaul their century-old hometown library in Maine, as long as \$6 million is raised from other sources. Tabitha King, the author's wife, serves on the building committee of the Bangor Public Library, which is planning a \$9 million modernization. She's also a former longtime board member.

One of the library's most pressing needs is a new roof to protect its collection, described as the biggest in northern New England. The library's copper roof was installed in 1912, when the library was built, and library officials say it's beyond repair.

The Bangor Daily News, which first reported the Kings' matching grant, says residents will vote in June whether to borrow \$3 million for the roof repair. □

Fallon reportedly replacing Jay Leno on 'Tonight' show



This Jan. 13, 2013 file photo shows Jay Leno, host of "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," left, and Jimmy Fallon, host of "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon" backstage at the 70th Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As Jay Leno makes jokes about ratings-challenged NBC in his "Tonight" monologues, speculation is swirling the network is taking steps to replace the host with Jimmy Fallon next year and move the talk show from California to New York. NBC confirmed Wednesday it's creating a new studio for Fallon in New York, where he hosts "Late Night." But the network did not comment on a report that the studio may become home to a transplanted, Fallon-hosted "Tonight."

The New York Times reported the plan Wednesday, citing unidentified network executives. The Hollywood Reporter had a March 1 report about a Fallon-Leno switch, which the network denied. Looming over NBC is its

messy, failed effort to replace Leno with Conan O'Brien, which ended in 2010 with Leno regaining "Tonight" and NBC losing O'Brien — who got a \$45 million exit deal — to TBS. Leno's current "Tonight" contract expires in September of 2014.

That occurred under a different regime, before NBCUniversal was taken over by Comcast Corp., which has a reputation for discipline.

While NBC dithered and backtracked on its "Tonight" succession plan involving O'Brien, Comcast is likely to be more decisive. The 38-year-old Fallon contacted Leno in an effort to help smooth the potential switch, according to a Hollywood Reporter story Wednesday.

The 62-year-old Leno, who took over "Tonight" from Johnny Carson in 1992, did not respond Wednesday to a request for comment. □

But he might be taking advantage of other ways to communicate — the "Tonight" stage and its audience of millions.

Although late-night hosts are known for making fun of their network bosses on-air, the timing of Leno's latest jabs at NBC seemed to make the network particularly uncomfortable. They reportedly asked him to stop; he hasn't.

"You know the whole legend of St. Patrick, right? St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland — and then they came to the United States and became NBC executives," Leno joked on Monday's show.

In the April issue of GQ magazine, "Late Night" producer Lorne Michaels ("Saturday Night Live") said a transition to Fallon had "an inevitability to it," adding that he was the closest to Carson that I've seen of this generation. □

Sandberg book scores big sales for its first week

BY HILLEL ITALIE
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Sheryl Sandberg has the ear, and the eyes, of the country's book buyers.

Sandberg's "Lean In" sold 140,000 copies its first week of publication, has gone back to press seven times for additional printings and now has 400,000 copies in print, publisher Alfred A. Knopf announced Wednesday.

It has been at No. 1 on Amazon.com's best seller list since coming out March 11 and will be No. 1 on the hard cover and e-book nonfiction lists appearing in the March 31 edition of the New York Times. It also has placed high on lists for Barnes & Noble and independent sellers, topping the nonfiction list for IndieBound, a list for independent stores.

Facebook's chief operating officer is hoping to create a national movement to help women advance in the workforce and her book became the focus of intense debate well be-



This book cover image released by Alfred A. Knopf shows "Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead" by Sheryl Sandberg.

Associated Press

fore publication. "Lean In" is resonating with readers and animating conversations across the country," said Knopf's head of publicity, Paul Bogaards, who noted that sales have been strong despite just a brief promotional tour by Sandberg. She also appears to be helping sales of other books. Since her recent praise of "Now, Discover

Your Strength," by Marcus Buckingham and Donald O. Clifton, the hardcover edition of the 12-year-old book has moved into the top 300 on Amazon. Fred Kofman's "Conscious Business," which she has cited as essential for executives, also jumped into the top 300 on Amazon and now is out of stock. The book first came out in 2006. □

Mad about him: Hamm a fan of Timberlake's style

NICOLE EVATT
Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — "Mad Men" star Jon Hamm is going mad over Justin Timberlake's suit and tie — the song and the singer's style. "I'm a big fan of Justin Timberlake," Hamm said in a recent interview. "I think he's a trendsetter, as they say. But he's always been kind of a natty dresser."

The 42-year-old actor, who says he has an "appreciation for fashion," returns as womanizing adman Don Draper when season six premieres April 7 on AMC. Seeing "Mad Men" style infiltrate pop culture — from Taylor Swift's mod minidress on the March cover of Elle magazine to Timberlake's ode to old Hollywood



In this March 13, 2012 file photo, Jon Hamm, a cast member in the television series "Mad Men," poses before the PaleyFest 2012 panel discussion about the show, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

glamour with his latest hit, "Suit & Tie," is the ultimate

compliment for Hamm. □
"It's nice that our show

Manager: Gaga recovering nicely after hip surgery

MESFIN FEKADU

AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lady Gaga's manager says the pop star is "doing unbelievable" a month after she had hip surgery that caused her to cancel her U.S. tour.

Vincent Herbert said in an interview Tuesday the 26-year-old Grammy winner is "doing wonderful, doing great."

Gaga, whose real name is Stefani Germanotta, canceled her "Born This Way Ball" tour last month. She'd hurt herself while performing some time ago.

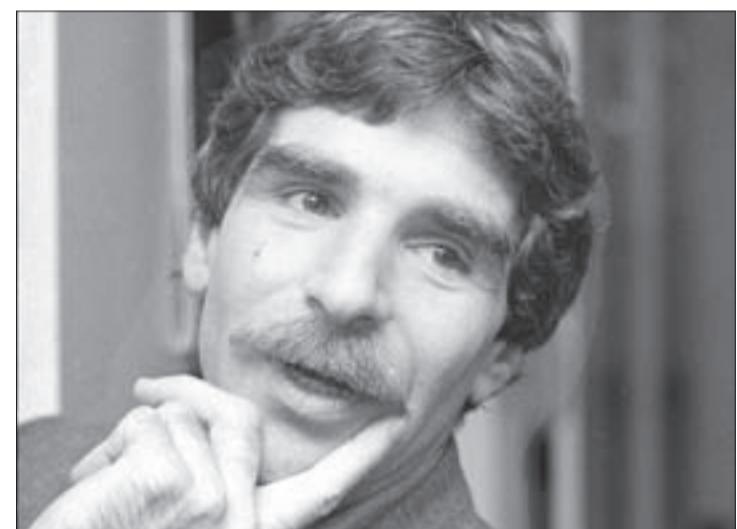


This Dec. 15, 2012 file photo shows singer Lady Gaga performing at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J.

Associated Press

Herbert says Gaga is finishing her new album, "ARTPOP," and is "ready to get back to work."

He calls the new album "very, very refreshing" and says the "Born This Way" singer continues to "push the envelope." □



In this Nov. 21, 1979 file photo, Harry Reems discusses his acting career in New York. Reems, the former porn star who co-starred in the 1972 movie "Deep Throat," died Tuesday, March 19, 2013 in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

'Deep Throat' co-star Harry Reems dies at 65

MICHELLE L. PRICE

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Former porn star Harry Reems, who co-starred in the 1972 movie "Deep Throat," has died at age 65.

Reems, who was born Herbert Streicher, died Tuesday afternoon at the veterans' hospital in Salt Lake City. Reems' wife confirmed his death Wednesday.

The cause of death hasn't been determined, but Re-

ems was suffering from multiple medical issues, including pancreatic cancer.

Reems played the male lead in "Deep Throat," a pop culture phenomenon that brought pornography to mainstream audiences. Reems left the porn industry and moved to Park City, Utah, in the 1980s, where he underwent an alcohol treatment program and worked as a real estate agent. □

Marches Of Folly



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Ten years ago, America invaded Iraq; somehow, our political class decided that we should respond to a terrorist attack by making war on a regime that, however vile, had nothing to do with that attack.

Some voices warned that we were making a terrible mistake – that the case for war was weak and possibly fraudulent, and that far from yielding the promised easy victory, the venture was all too likely to end in costly grief. And those warnings were, of course, right.

There were, it turned out, no weapons of mass destruction; it was obvious in retrospect that the Bush administration deliberately misled the nation into war. And the war – having cost thousands of American lives and scores of thousands of Iraqi lives, having imposed financial costs vastly higher than the war's boosters predicted – left America weaker, not stronger, and ended up creating an Iraqi regime that is closer to Tehran than it is to Washington.

So did our political elite and our news media learn from this experience? It sure doesn't look like it. The really striking thing, during the run-up to the war, was the illusion of consensus. To this day, pundits who got it wrong excuse themselves on the grounds that "everyone" thought that there was a solid case for war. Of course, they acknowledge, there were war opponents – but they were out of the mainstream.

The trouble with this argument is that it was and is circular: Support for the war became part of the definition of what it meant to hold a mainstream opinion. Anyone who dissented, no matter how qualified, was ipso facto labeled as unworthy of consideration. This was true in political circles; it was equally true of much of the press, which effectively took sides and joined the war party.

CNN's Howard Kurtz, who was at The Washington Post at the time, recently wrote about how this process worked, how skeptical reporting, no matter how solid, was discouraged and rejected. "Pieces questioning the evidence or rationale for war," he wrote, "were frequently buried, minimized or spiked."

Closely associated with this taking of sides was an exaggerated and inappropriate reverence for authority. Only people in posi-

tions of power were considered worthy of respect. Kurtz tells us, for example, that The Post killed a piece on war doubts by its own senior defense reporter on the grounds that it relied on retired military officials and outside experts – "in other words, those with sufficient independence to question the rationale for war."

All in all, it was an object lesson in the dangers of groupthink, a demonstration of how important it is to listen to skeptical voices and separate reporting from advocacy. But as I said, it's a lesson that doesn't seem to have been learned. Consider, as evidence, the deficit obsession that has dominated our political scene for the past three years.

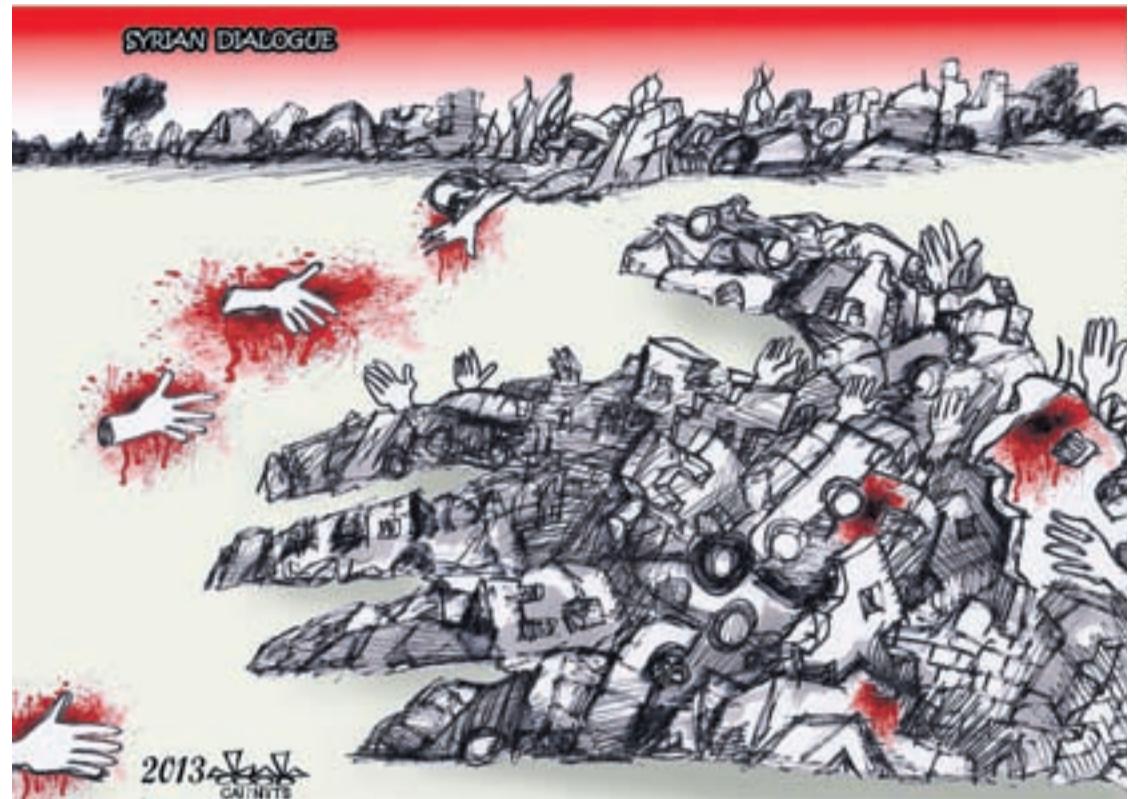
Now, I don't want to push the analogy too far. Bad economic policy isn't the moral equivalent of a war fought on false pretenses, and while the predictions of deficit scolds have been wrong time and again, there hasn't been any development either as decisive or as shocking as the complete failure to find weapons of mass destruction. Best of all, these days dissenters don't operate in the atmosphere of menace, the sense that raising doubts could have devastating personal and career consequences, that was so pervasive in 2002 and 2003. (Remember the hate campaign against the Dixie Chicks?)

But now as then we have the illusion of consensus, an illusion based on a process in which anyone questioning the preferred narrative is immediately marginalized, no matter how strong his or her credentials. And now as then the press often seems to have taken sides. It has been especially striking how often questionable assertions are reported as fact. How many times, for example, have you seen news articles simply asserting that the United States has a "debt crisis," even though many economists would argue that it faces no such thing?

In fact, in some ways the line between news and opinion has been even more blurred on fiscal issues than it was in the march to war. As The Post's Ezra Klein noted last month, it seems that "the rules of reportorial neutrality don't apply when it comes to the deficit."

What we should have learned from the Iraq debacle was that you should always be skeptical and that you should never rely on supposed authority. If you hear that "everyone" supports a policy, whether it's a war of choice or fiscal austerity, you should ask whether "everyone" has been defined to exclude anyone expressing a different opinion. And policy arguments should be evaluated on the merits, not by who expresses them; remember when Colin Powell assured us about those Iraqi WMDs?

Unfortunately, as I said, we don't seem to have learned those lessons. Will we ever? □



The Progressive Shift



DAVID BROOKS
© 2013 New York Times

There is a statue outside the Department of Labor of a powerful, rambunctious horse being reined in by an extremely muscular man. This used to be a metaphor for liberalism. The horse was capitalism. The man was government, which was needed sometimes to restrain capitalism's excesses. Today, liberalism seems to have changed. Today, many progressives seem to believe that government is the horse, the source of growth, job creation and prosperity. Capitalism is just a feeding trough that government can use to fuel its expansion.

For an example of this new worldview, look at the budget produced by the Congressional Progressive Caucus last week. These Democrats try to boost economic growth with a gigantic \$2.1 trillion increase in government spending – including a \$450 billion public works initiative, a similar-size infrastructure program and \$179 billion so states, too, can hire more government workers.

Now, of course, liberals have always believed in Keynesian countercyclical deficit spending. But that was borrowing to brake against a downturn when certain conditions prevail: when the economy is shrinking; when debt levels are low; when there are plenty of shovel-ready projects waiting to be enacted; when there is a large and growing gap between the economy's current

output and what it is capable of producing.

Today, House progressives are calling for a huge increase in government taxing and spending when none of those conditions apply. Today, progressives are calling on government to be the growth engine in all circumstances.

In this phase of the recovery, just as the economy is finally beginning to take off, these Democrats want to take an astounding \$4.2 trillion out of the private sector and put it into government where they believe it can be used more efficiently.

How do the House Democrats want to get this money? The top tax rate would shoot up to 49 percent. There'd be new taxes on investment, inheritance, corporate income, financial transactions, banking activity and on and on.

Now, of course, there have been times, like, say, the Eisenhower administration, when top tax rates were very high. But the total tax burden was lower since so few people paid the top rate and there were so many ways to avoid it. Government was smaller.

Today, especially after the recent tax increases, the total tax burden is already at historic highs. If you combine federal, state, sales and other taxes, rich people in places like California and New York are seeing the government take 60 cents or more out of their last dollar earned.

Democrats would make that weighty tax burden much, much heavier. In fact, the entire Democratic governing vision, from President Barack Obama on down, is based on the notion that we can have a growing welfare state and pay for it by taxing the top 2 percent.

The first problem, of course, is that there aren't enough rich people to cover even the current spending plans. As an analysis by the

group Third Way demonstrated, even if we threw every semiplausible tax increase at the rich, the national debt would still double over the next three decades.

The second problem is that if you set the tax burden at astronomical levels you really do begin to change behavior and wind up with a very different country. You don't have to be a rabid supply-sider to believe that when you start taking away 80 or 90 percent of somebody's top marginal earnings, you are going to get some pretty screwy effects.

Higher taxes will produce long-term changes in social norms, behavior and growth. Edward Prescott, a winner of the Nobel Memorial Prize in economics, found that, in the 1950s when their taxes were low, Europeans worked more hours per capita than Americans. Then their taxes went up, reducing the incentives to work and increasing the incentives to relax. Over the next decades, Europe saw a nearly 30 percent decline in work hours.

The rich tend to be more sensitive to tax-rate changes because they've got advisers who are paid to be. Martin Feldstein, an economics professor at Harvard, looked into tax changes in the 1980s and concluded that raising rates causes people to shift compensations to untaxed fringe benefits and otherwise suppresses their economic activity.

A study last year by the economists Michael Keane and Richard Rogerson found that tax rates can have a surprisingly large influence on how much people invest in education, how likely they are to create businesses and which professions they go into.

The progressive budget in the House seems to have been written by people hermetically sealed in the house of government. They work in government. They represent public-sector workers. □

Queens hotel boom brings NYC tourists across river

BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK (AP) — A hotel boom is luring tourists out of Manhattan and across the East River to the Queens neighborhood of Long Island City, where 15 hotels have opened since 2006, from boutiques to chains. Many of them boast not just lower rates than hotels in Manhattan but also great views of the city skyline and easy access by subway, taxi or even ferry. Just don't be put off by the area's factories, warehouses, and parking lots — not to mention the towering red and white smokestacks of the nearby Ravenswood power plant. While Long Island City and the adjacent neighborhood of Astoria offer many attractions, including waterfront parks, museums and good restaurants, industrial heritage remains a vibrant part of the local identity.

There's also a famous bridge here. No, not the Brooklyn Bridge, but the Ed Koch Queensborough Bridge, named for the city's late mayor but commonly called the 59th Street Bridge. Simon & Garfunkel fans may recall that the 1960s song "Feeelin' Groovy" was subtitled "The 59th Street Bridge Song." Many Long Island City hotels offer views of the picturesque bridge with its delicately undulating beige spans connecting Queens to Manhattan across the water.

Nhi Pham, 21, a student from Orlando, Fla., stayed at the Z NYC Hotel in Long Island City recently after finding a \$139 rate on Groupon. "The hotel room had one wall that was all windows and it was so nice waking up to that amazing Manhattan skyline and view of the bridge without having to pay a really high price for it," she said.

Priceline.com prices for two-star hotels in Long Island City for a Saturday in March ranged from \$139 to \$209, compared to \$143 to \$349 on Manhattan's East Side near Grand Central Terminal. The growth in Queens hotels has coincid-

ed with a push by NYC & Company, the city's tourism agency, to bring visitors to the boroughs outside Manhattan.

"I would definitely stay in Long Island City again," Pham said. "It was a very industrial area, but I thought that was fascinating." Many points of interest in Long Island City and neighboring Astoria are related to the area's industrial heritage. The famous Steinway piano factory opened in

ing that was part of a 1920s film studio that made silent and early sound films. The studio was revived three decades ago as Kaufman Astoria Studios; modern production credits range from "Sesame Street" to "Men in Black 3." In Long Island City, a baked goods manufacturer called Silvercup was transformed into Silvercup Studios. Its clients include "30 Rock" and "The Devil Wears Prada." The Museum of the Mov-

the late Isamu Noguchi's spare, modernist stone sculptures, along with a compelling film about the artist's career and unusual childhood with a Japanese father and American mother. Noguchi created the museum in the building where he lived and worked, on a residential street surrounded by parking lots and warehouses. Nearby, the waterfront Socrates Sculpture Park displays work outdoors by various contemporary artists.

Another major destination for art-lovers is MoMA PS1, part of the Museum of Modern Art, located in a former Long Island City public school. The museum's mission is to display contemporary art, so if you're looking for Monet, you'd better take the E train back into Manhattan and head to MoMA's main museum. Through April 1, MoMA PS1 exhibits include mixed-media objects that explore religious iconography — some made from everyday material like tin foil and glitter — by Thomas Lanigan-Schmidt, a gay artist who attended Catholic school. Opening in May is a multimedia exhibition with environmental themes.

PS1's extraordinary cafeteria M. Wells Dinette is a must for foodies. The menu offers adventurous items like bone marrow tarts along with less edgy fare like borsht, oysters, juniper potato salad and hot toddies. The cafe cancelled plans to serve horsemeat after an outcry.

Speaking of food, ask a New Yorker about Astoria and you may be told, "That's where you go for Greek food." Although it's known as a Greek-American neighborhood, Astoria's immigrant population and restaurants are quite diverse. For example, Djerdan, a Balkan eatery at 34-04 31st Ave., advertises "Best Burek in Town!" — referring to yummy coiled dough filled with meat, spinach or cheese. Other popular restaurants include The Strand Smoke-

house, 25-27 Broadway, for barbecue; the upscale but fun Astor Room at Kaufman Astoria Studios, 34-12 36th St.; Taverna Kyklades, 33-07 Ditmars Blvd., for seafood and Greek standards (expect long waits for tables); and Agnanti, 19-06 Ditmars, named the city's top Greek restaurant by Greek Reporter USA.

In Long Island City, a trendy, lively bar and eatery at 24-27 Jackson Ave. called Dutch Kills offers artisanal drinks and "bartender's choice," where patrons give guidance on what they like but leave it up to the bartender to create interesting cocktails. Head bartender Jan Warren admits that first-time guests are sometimes "a little freaked out" by Dutch Kills' location on a deserted industrial street with a spooky lit-up "BAR" sign. But inside it is warm and welcoming, and the bartenders put on a great show as they pour, pinch, squeeze, stir and shake ingredients, then present their creations with a flourish and a smile.

"What we do is great food and cocktails, but you actually get to have a good time," said Warren. "Our regular clientele runs the gamut from Queens garbage collectors to cocktail nerds who come over from Europe."

Other Long Island City attractions include two places to climb: a five-story outdoor wall at NYC Outward Bound headquarters, and a cavernous new gym called The Cliffs, opening in May. At Astoria Park, you'll find a skateboard park, jogging track and waterfront paths, along with the city's largest outdoor swimming pool.

Pham, the Z hotel guest, said travel to Manhattan was easy, between subways, cabs and Z's free hourly shuttle bus. The hotel even has free bikes for guests. And a ferry ride from Long Island City takes five minutes to reach Manhattan. But with so much to do on the Queens side of the river, you might not want to leave. □



Head bartender Jan Warren holds a drink at Dutch Kills, a bar in the Long Island City section of the Queens borough of New York. Long Island City and the adjacent neighborhood of Astoria are becoming popular destinations for tourists lured by moderately priced hotels just across the river from Manhattan, along with the area's attractions, which include museums, waterfront parks, and ethnic food.

(AP Photo/Dutch Kills)

Astoria in the 1870s; today, free factory tours fill up months in advance. One of Long Island City's best-known landmarks is a bright red Pepsi-Cola sign on the waterfront, visible from across the river in Manhattan. The sign once marked a local soda bottling plant; the plant closed but the sign was preserved in Gantry Plaza State Park, which offers boardwalks, piers and skyline views. Filmmaking is another local industry. The Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria is housed in a build-

ing Image's artifacts range from early cameras and projectors to costumes and props from "Star Wars." Screenings include silent movies with live music, classics and the avant-garde. The museum's hands-on exhibits are especially fun: Play old arcade games like Pac-Man, dub your voice into a clip of Dorothy from the original "Wizard of Oz" or put rock music into the soundtrack of an old Western movie. A few blocks away, the Noguchi Museum offers a sublime collection of